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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Consultative Council Meets 17 Feb

LD1702150190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The ordinary session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Consultative Council began at the house of deputies in Bardo this morning. [passage omitted] Mr Omar Bejaoui read out the agenda of the session, which includes the following nine points:

1. Amending the internal constitution;
2. The Consultative Council;
3. The movement of persons across Maghreb countries;
4. The movement of goods and items Maghreb countries and inside the Maghreb united market;
5. Achieving food security;
6. Issues of youth and its protection;
7. The welfare of Maghreb communities abroad;
8. Standardizing academic curricula;
9. Bolstering cooperation among the mass media in the fields of news, culture, and sports.
10. Standardizing lecturers and laws.
11. Increasing relations and cooperation with Arab, African, and international blocs;
12. Adopting a step the development of the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

AMU Secretary General on Relations With EEC

LD1302143790 Rabat MAP in English 1214 GMT
13 Feb 90

[Text] Casablanca, 13 Feb. (MAP)—“With its 80 million consumers by year 2000, and the economic potentials it possesses, the Maghreb is already a very respectable interlocutor,” Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) Muhammad Sekkat has said.

In an interview with local weekly “LE LIBERAL,” Sekkat said the Maghreb will be even more “credible” if UMA countries adopted a unified stance within international fora.

Speaking of UMA-EEC relations, Sekkat noted they were of “bilateral nature” in certain cases and “non-existent” in others.

For Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, he said, relations with EEC are “organized,” with cooperation accords concluded between the EEC and each of the three countries.

Mauritania is a bit tangled up in ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific), but has organized relations with the EEC. As to Libya, it has absolutely no relations with the European Community. Consequently, he added, UMA-EEC relations should not be favoured at the expense of bilateral relations.

While noting EEC’s unified stance when dealing with other countries, Sekkat deplored the fact the community

deals, not on a country-by-country basis, but on a product-by-product basis, voiding its relations with other countries of much of their essence.

He said although the EEC respects the “traditional exchange flow” in its product-quota policy, the very notion of traditional flow is “vague enough and boils down to strictly nothing.”

By coordinating and unifying their stances, Sekkat said, Maghreban countries would have a special weight in negotiating new “partnership” relations with the EEC.

He said it is Morocco who has extensive relations with the EEC (fisheries agreements, close trade relations...) that other Maghreban countries has not, and it is consequently the Kingdom which underwent the full impact of Spain’s and Portugal’s entry into the EEC. The other Maghreban countries’ backing to Morocco will therefore strengthen its negotiating position.

Sekkat said a Maghreban economic union will be a “result” of UMA’s unionist march and requires that the five countries tune their economies by laying down the necessary structures. In the meantime, he concluded, what is needed is a more unified stance and, especially, not to remain idle.

Jordan, YAR Foreign Ministers Depart ACC Fete

JN1702141990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1300 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad this morning after attending the central celebrations held in Baghdad yesterday on the first anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

‘Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also left Baghdad after attending celebrations held on the first anniversary of the creation of the ACC.

ACC Secretary General Dr. Hilmi Nammar also left Baghdad after attending the central celebrations held on the first anniversary of the establishment of the ACC. He was seen off at the airport by the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Palestinian Affairs

‘Arafat To Define U.S. Talk Position in Amman

JN1702132690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU’I
in Arabic 15 Feb 90 pp 1, 17

[Text] Amman—A responsible Jordanian source has stated that the Jordanian Government agreed officially last night to host a PLO Central Council meeting in Amman at the end of this month, after the conclusion of the Arab Cooperation Council summit. Palestinian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that during this meeting ‘Arafat intends to define clearly his attitude toward

dialogue with the United States. The council is expected to discuss the progress of the political process and the current contacts between the PLO and Washington via Cairo.

Palestinian sources told AL-ITTIHAD that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will express his present feeling of hopelessness regarding contacts with Washington and his conviction that direct and indirect dialogue has led nowhere. The sources added that 'Arafat intends to explain his attitude decisively during the meetings. He will do this from the Jordanian capital as opposed to elsewhere because of the importance people in the occupied territories attach to this issue and in view of Jordan's expected participation in the political process at a later time.

It should be noted that the meeting will be the most important in the history of the Central Council inasmuch as it being held in Amman for the first time since 1970. Many observers consider it even more important than the Palestine National Council meeting in Amman in 1983.

It was reported earlier that George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah would attend the council's meetings. If true, this would represent a major political turning point in Jordan's relations with Palestinian organizations.

'Arafat Message to Palestinian Fund in U.S.

*JN1902182890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 19 Feb 90*

["Text" of message by Yasir 'Arafat, "president of the state of Palestine," to the 21st annual congress of the Palestinian Arab Fund in the United States; read by announcer—date not given]

[Text] Brother chairman of the congress, sisters, brothers and honorable guests, revolutionary greetings: On the occasion of your 21st annual congress and your celebrations marking the second anniversary of the blessed intifadah of your people and the 25th anniversary of their victorious revolution, I am pleased to address you, members and guests alike. I am also pleased to address the Palestinian community in the United States in my own name and on behalf of my brothers the PLO Executive Committee members and our struggling Palestinian people in order to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations, greetings, and brotherly wishes that your meeting and celebrations will be successful.

Brother chairman of the congress, sisters, and brothers: The marking of these two national occasions epitomizes your true national and pan-Arab commitment always to support your struggler people to reinforce their just struggle in order to live a free and honorable life in an independent state of Palestine. It also reflects the extent of your love for and loyalty to Palestine—land, people, history, heritage, and culture.

Your celebrations reaffirm the continued strong cohesion among the sons of our one Palestinian people everywhere. They reaffirm their determination to continue our struggle and our sweeping popular intifadah with deep faith and firm national will—and through the support and solidarity of all the brothers in our nation, of all free people, and of all our friends in the world—until we achieve the victory of ending the Israeli occupation of our land and establishing our independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Brother chairman of the congress, sisters, and brothers: Your 21st meeting this year takes place while your people's national intifadah against Israeli occupation continues, while the occupation authorities escalate all forms of their repression and terrorism policy against our people, and while the Israeli Government continues to reject all international peace initiatives designed to achieve a just peace in our region and enable our Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

Israel is doing everything to undermine the peace process in the region. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir revealed the Israeli plans when he declared that Israel would retain the occupied Palestinian territories to settle the new Jewish immigrants. This means prolonging the Israeli occupation of our land. This is in addition to Israel's rejection of all peace plans and initiatives. It also refuses to recognize our people's inalienable national rights.

O brothers and sisters, the world is experiencing a climate of international detente and is witnessing great developments and changes in Eastern Europe and other areas of the world, where many regional problems are being solved fairly under the auspices of the United Nations. The struggle of the peoples of Eastern Europe and other areas of the world to achieve their freedom in an atmosphere of true democracy without domination, injustice, or tyranny, and to regain their stability and sovereignty has raised hopes that the international situation will improve and the problems will be solved peacefully and through negotiations.

Our Palestinian people take pride in the fact that their sweeping popular intifadah and their just struggle against the Israeli settlement policy and occupation constitute an example to be followed by these nations—nations that are yearning to achieve freedom through struggle and defiance with their bare bodies and their stones. Every state in the world, except Israel, has learned this lesson or seen the meaning of these changes. Israel and its leadership have been blinded by arrogance owing to the limitless power provided by the U.S. Administration.

It is truly regrettable that the U.S. Administration is completely biased toward Israel and is still trying to obstruct our people's right to freedom, independence, sovereignty, and democracy—a right enjoyed by other peoples. Moreover, the United States continues to give every kind of material, political, and financial support to

Israel to prolong its occupation of our country. The United States also extends financial aid to support settling the new Jewish immigrants. At the same time, it has reduced its financial contributions to humanitarian institutions like the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which extends medical, health, and educational assistance to our people in the camps.

We are absolutely confident that victory will come despite the difficulties. We have launched an important peace initiative, which was supported by the whole international community. We emphasize that the Israeli occupation should end so that a just peace can be found in the region. Therefore, an international peace conference on the Middle East should be convened under UN auspices and with the participation of the five permanent Security Council member states and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties.

Hence, brothers and sisters, you have great responsibilities in the United States. You are responsible for supporting your people and their intifadah against the Israeli occupation. Therefore, we are confident that you will increase that support and unify your ranks to reinforce your position and your efforts to give sufficient support to the intifadah's fund and for family cooperation, to collect material donations and others, and to set up a committee to collect gold to contribute to the nucleus of a Palestinian central bank.

You and all the brothers and sisters in the United States are also responsible for intensifying media and political activity to enlighten all sections of U.S. public opinion, explain the justice of our people's struggle, and bring effective pressure on the U.S. Administration to make it change its negative positions into positive ones through recognizing our people's national rights and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Such efforts are important and vital in reinforcing our people's steadfastness and encouraging them to continue their just struggle and national intifadah, end the Israeli occupation, and establish their own independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-Sharif on 'Intensive Activity' Toward Peace

JN1702144290 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
15 Feb 90 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Tunis—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that efforts to boost the peace process in the Middle East have intensified in the past few days. In a telephone interview with him in Tunis, Abu-Sharif explained that since U.S. Secretary of State Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze met together in Moscow, intensive activity has been going on in the Middle East to end the stalemate in the peace process.

Asked about the truth of statements attributed to him in which he said that U.S. President George Bush has

pledged to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, Abu-Sharif said: Yes. U.S. President Bush pledged that in May 1989 during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington. Abu-Sharif asserted that President Bush himself had publicly committed himself to that statement.

Abu-Sharif added that the preparatory step—that is, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo—will be discussed during the tripartite meeting among Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Abu-Sharif asserted that the Palestinian delegation will be formed by the PLO and will consist of Palestinians from inside and outside [the occupied territories]. He also said that the United States is bound to let Palestinians from outside and from Arab Jerusalem take part in the delegation. It is also bound to an open agenda for the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, he said. [passage omitted]

Hurani Lists Jordan's Internal, External Dangers

JN1902200690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
18 Feb 90 pp 1, 30

[By Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Text] 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has warned that Israel is taking concrete steps to change the current situation in Jordan and to prepare the atmosphere there for making this Arab country an alternative homeland for the Palestinians. He accused other states of seeking to incite disturbances in Jordan. He warned that internal Jordanian forces that have been harmed by the democratic process are trying to revive tension through the instigation of tribal feuds.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', Hurani explained that in view of current international changes and the present situation in the Middle East, the Arab homeland is no longer a region where intervention is prohibited—as it used to be when the Soviet Union had influence in some Arab countries and was not preoccupied with its own internal affairs.

The PLO Executive Committee member said that these factors make anything possible. He added that in addition to these developments, the termination of the Lebanese state, and possibly Lebanese existence itself, is taking place. On the other hand, Israel fully rejects the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian official expressed the conviction that Jordan faces many dangers, including the Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, especially since it will be difficult to absorb the large number of immigrants 2 years from now if the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 are excluded. He referred to the strong pressure being put on the Kremlin to prevent it obstructing Jewish emigration and to the need for guarantees that immigrants would not be settled in the occupied Palestinian territories. He recalled the U.S.

refusal to sign a U.S.-Soviet statement denouncing the settlement of new immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that in such a case, Palestinians would have nowhere to live and would thus be forced to emigrate to Jordan. He indicated that 500,000 Palestinians living in Lebanon are threatened with deportation if the situation in Lebanon remains as it is now. They will find only Jordan open to them as a way of solving the Lebanese crisis, he said.

Hurani told AL-ANBA: These factors constitute a real and sweeping danger to Jordan. Other dangers related to Jordan itself or its surroundings increase that country's exposure to serious threats. Hurani adds that the dissatisfaction of Jordanian circles whose wings have been clipped by recent democratic changes there is one of these dangers. He explained that it is in the interest of these circles to revive tension in Jordan in order to regain their influence. This is in addition to other forces that are trying to damage national unity through the escalation of tribal feuds. These forces will find external forces, whose interests have been harmed by the Jordanian democratic experience, ready to assist. Israel and other neighboring countries are among these forces.

The Palestinian official described the dangers and threats posed to Jordan as being aimed against the Palestinians as well. This makes defending Jordan part of defending Palestine.

Hurani said that the recent PLO Executive Committee's meeting expressed great interest in the situation in Jordan and decided to set up a coordination committee with the Jordanian Government. This committee will visit Amman within the next few days to discuss means to confront the internal and external dangers facing Jordan.

PLO Envoy to Egypt Urges U.S. Action on Peace
NC2002133590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT
20 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal has emphasized the strength and closeness of Egyptian-Palestinian relations which are based on constant, constructive dialogue.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal commented on reports in the Western press regarding the so-called "crisis" in these relations. He stated that the relationship between the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders and people is founded on strong ties, a joint destiny, and continuous coordination for the sake of attaining the Palestinian people's legitimate national and political rights.

He added that full coordination between the two leaderships and the continuous activity during the past five months have emphasized this relationship.

Concerning the expected meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens next Friday, Sa'id Kamal said: We urge the U.S.

Administration to expose the official Israeli stand concerning Israel's requirements to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. He noted that during Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo, the Palestinian and Egyptian delegations reached agreement on this issue.

He said any attempt to avoid efforts to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue would be blamed on the United States and Israel. He added that any such attempt would encourage the belief that the U.S. Administration sees that it is better to preserve the current ruling coalition in Israel than to begin peace steps. He said this would represent a U.S. preference of the Israeli Likud bloc.

Hani Al-Hasan on Egypt Ties, Immigration
JN1802203890 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic
17 Feb 90 p 27

[By Mahmud al-Sharbini; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Hani al-Hasan, a political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the PLO's duty is not to protect Israelis and that the PLO was established and called "the Palestine Liberation Organization" to liberate Palestine and regain the occupied Arab territories, which were usurped by the Zionist enemy. He stressed that Egyptian-Palestinian relations were stronger than ever and not as weak as some people imagined "so that a word here or there could cause a crisis between Egypt and the PLO or could harm these relations." He also said: "The whole Arab nation, including Egypt and Palestine, are in one trench and the Israeli threat will not spare any region or part of the Arab nation."

Hani al-Hasan said that attempts to drive a wedge between Egypt and the PLO would not benefit anyone and that no patriotic Arab who loved his homeland would allow it. Instead, he said, it serves the Israeli enemy, which is trying to divert world attention from the intifadah to the mass immigration of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine—immigration that means the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He added that this is designed to create problems with neighboring Arab states, paving the way for attacks against them in the future in order to realize the Zionist enemy's expansionist dreams and create greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Hani al-Hasan described Jerusalem as the backbone of the Arab region, adding that there should be Arab and Islamic action to save the Arab nation. He said it was time to set up an eastern front consisting of Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Palestine and to unify the armies of these countries; because, he said, the mere announcement of this unity would panic the enemy and fully support the intifadah. [passage omitted]

Regarding the mass immigration of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine, which is the issue of the hour, Al-Hasan stated that he had reservations about the use of the word "emigration," because emigration is an optional concept and occurs when people are free and

can choose the time and place. But, he said, what we see now is a forced emigration, because the Jews are forced to leave Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union without passports and aboard a plane with one specific destination so that they will not be able to return. He said that this situation not only harms the Palestinians, but also the whole Arab nation.

Al-Hasan went on to say that the Palestinians have paid the price: Our territories are under occupation and we have nothing more to pay at present. This immigration means the expulsion of the Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza and is also designed to create problems and complications with the neighboring countries to pave the way for attacking them in the future.

Al-Hasan added: The mask has fallen from the face of Shamir. He is responsible for receiving the Soviet and Eastern European Jews, because it was he who announced at that time Israel's need for the West Bank and Gaza to fulfill Israel's expansionist dreams, create greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates, gain time to quell the intifadah, and settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and thus impose the fait accompli.

Al-Hasan stressed that the question of Jewish settlement is so serious that it must be solved; it should not be left to time, he said. The question, he added, should be viewed within our belief in and readiness for martyrdom, sacrifice, restoration of land, and protection of the Arabs. We, therefore, must act on all levels, he said.

The question, said Al-Hasan, is "what can we do to foil the enemy's immigration plot and its terrorist and oppressive acts? First of all, he answered, we should not let them weaken the intifadah. We never tire of making sacrifices to support the intifadah; the evidence is that in Rafah, three to six young men are martyred daily and between 100 and 200 others are wounded. We are determined to continue, because we know they want to uproot us from our lands. The Arab nation must realize that its future is linked to the Palestine question, which is an Arab and Islamic question; it is everybody's question. Jerusalem is the region's backbone, and Arab and Islamic action must be taken to save the nation and prevent its backbone from breaking; otherwise, this nation will collapse under the feet of the Israeli enemy's soldiers. We must act in both spheres. Why should the eastern front "comprising Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Palestine" not be established by uniting the armies of the four countries? This move, or even the mere announcement of it, would alarm the enemy. Hani al-Hasan asked: "Where does the strength of the intifadah really lie?" He replied: Our struggling people are seeking to seize authority for the people, and we are acting to gain international legitimacy to force the enemy to withdraw. This will only be possible when an actual force is created through the establishment of the eastern front, which would focus all our efforts. We consider this a major factor of support for the intifadah because it forces the enemy to reconsider its calculations.

Hani al-Hasan called on the Arab and Islamic countries to act and make Shamir and his allies hear and dread their strong voices. Shamir should be made to know that his criminal acts of demolishing houses and uprooting Palestinians will not go unpunished. [passage omitted]

Al-Hasan commented on recent reactions to the PLO statement on the Israeli bus incident. The statement was described by some (for example, AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi') as weak and poor, and by others (for example, Anis Mansur in MAYU) as inciting terrorism and proving the PLO's responsibility. In general terms but with specific aims, al-Hasan said: Every now and then, people appear and look for a break in relations between Egypt and the PLO. But I say that these relations are strong and firm, not fragile as some may imagine. The question is as simple as this; throughout history, we have been one body and one geographic region with common goals. We consider the Egyptian people and Army as protectors of Palestine. We will not give anybody the opportunity to sabotage relations between the PLO and Egypt; we are cohesive; the Egyptian Army and the great Egyptian people made a major sacrifice in Sinai.

Hani al-Hasan said: The PLO's task is not to protect the Israelis, but rather to defend the land of Palestine and look after the families of the martyrs who fall every day. The PLO was so named to protect the Palestinians. Hani al-Hasan asked: Who has an interest in harming Egyptian-Palestinian relations? Is it Egypt, Palestine, or the Zionist enemy? We tell these people that Egyptian-Palestinian relations will continue, because we are one and the same people. We will continue to appreciate the sacrifices of the Egyptian people. We have a common enemy, and a common destiny. The revolution will continue until victory. [passage omitted]

PLO's Milhim on Emigration, Egyptian Ties

*JN1902101490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
19 Feb 90 pp 1, 16*

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and chairman of the Occupied Homeland Affairs' Committee, has described the Soviet Jews who are immigrating to occupied Palestine as a fighting army whose aim is to seize the unoccupied Arab lands, indiscriminately. He also said that the emigration, which is taking place at this time especially aims at foiling peace efforts in general, and the Palestinian peace initiative, embraced by the Soviet Union since its formulation, in particular.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Milhim said that the Palestinian peace initiative—one of the repercussions yielded by the blessed intifadah in the international arena—did not come into being merely through coordination among the active Palestinian factions but also through coordination with the Arab and friendly parties, foremost of which is the Soviet Union, which has had a positive opinion

regarding the Palestinian peace offensive adopted by the 19th Palestine National Council.

Milhim added that the emigration of Soviet Jews—in such massive numbers and distinguished quality—has created a source of anxiety to the Arabs, who constitute one of the major parties to the Middle East peace process. Moreover, this emigration will foil and cause a retreat in the peace process, at a time when everybody has felt that circumstances are conducive to peace and after many of the world's regional issues had been settled.

Milhim went on to say: We do not deny that the Soviet Union is still siding with the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; however, because the Soviet Union is a friend, and as we do with our brothers, it should understand our frankness.

As for the recent resolution taken by the Security Council, which denounces the Israeli practices by settling the Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, we view it as devoid of any condemnation or deterrence to Israel; in fact, the resolution's formula encourages Israel to continue with and expand its schemes, Milhim added.

He said: Motivated by our eagerness to save the peace process, and because the Soviet Union is a peacemaking partner, this emigration must stop, especially that all the parties who are concerned with the conflict in the region—except for Israel—agree that the emigration constitutes a major obstacle to peace. In addition, this emigration is a blatant violation of man's rights, because it is an emigration restricted to one direction only. For, the immigrant cannot choose to go to the place he desires, and he cannot go back to his birthplace in the socialist countries if he wants to. Furthermore, it is inadmissible that one of the parties to the peace process—the Soviet Union—be an accomplice in foiling peace through this emigration, though it can prevent or defer it in order to put peace on the correct path.

Milhim explained that the Palestinian territories which were occupied in 1948, which are inhabited by about 4 million Jews, and which are unable to accommodate their inhabitants economically, socially, and demographically, will have no more room to receive hundreds of thousands of immigrant Jews. So, if those Jews do not themselves occupy the West Bank and Gaza, they will contribute to the expulsion of a similar number from the Palestinian territories which were occupied in 1948, to the West Bank and Gaza, which means that the outcome will be the same. This also means that the Arabs will pay the price, especially that the pan-Arab security is being threatened by Israel more than ever.

On what is being said about the names of a Palestinian delegation to hold dialogue with an Israeli delegation, Milhim denied that the PLO submitted any list—containing names from inside or outside [the occupied territories]—to any party.

He added that the issue is not one of names; it is a matter of principle on who will choose and announce the names, and it also concerns the conditioned agenda proposed by Israel. To prove that the names are mere press speculations, Milhim said that his name was included in the delegation awhile ago without his knowledge, and without this issue being discussed by the PLO's institutions. No names were given during the PLO's discussions. Discussion was only about the bases and principles which were approved by the Palestine Central Council in Baghdad last October—the bases which the PLO still adheres to, and has not relinquished.

Milhim affirmed that the Palestinian-Egyptian relationship rests on unshakably strong foundations. Commenting on some of the press remarks against the PLO, Milhim said: We wish that the Palestinian-Syrian differences actually be removed. [sentence as published] It is our duty to recall that the given facts in the region at this time vis-a-vis the Israeli intransigence and the Soviet Jews' emigration make it incumbent on the frontline states—Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and the PLO—to discard differences, reinforce the ranks, and close all gaps through which the enemy is trying to infiltrate, because the situation portends ill, and consequently we will be facing a to-be-or-not-to-be situation.

Abu-Sharif Blames Shamir for Bus Attack

JN1702110990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, 17 Feb (WAKH)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has said that Israel is now facing a deadlock brought about by the intifadah and the Palestinian peace offensive. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Abu-Sharif said he expected an imminent end to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir because of his stubbornness, intransigence, and rejection of all peace efforts. He called on Israel to take advantage of the peace offer made by the Palestinians. He said: The Palestinians are the owners of the land and the strangers, not the Palestinians, are the ones that must adapt.

Abu-Sharif said that Palestinian efforts to end the Israeli occupation will continue along two paths: The first is to resist the occupation as strongly as possible, and the second is to propose the feasible and practical political solution of two states in Palestine.

Abu-Sharif condemned the Ismailia incident because it was aimed against lawyers, doctors, and professors. He stated that the first and last party responsible for the killing of the Israelis in this incident is Yitzhaq Shamir—regardless of who carried out the act—because the occupation is the cause of aggression against human rights and the occupation creates hostility and practices racism and terrorism against our people.

Abu-Sharif added: The Palestinian people do not need to use the methods being used against them in order to feel that their rights are being upheld, because their ethics are

higher than those of the occupation and its terrorism. He noted that the Palestinians are fighting for freedom and democracy and to end coercion and organized repression. Therefore, he added, the Palestinians cannot practice what is being practiced against them.

PFLP, DFLP Condemn Sharon's Resolution Plan

*JN1902195690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have condemned former Israeli Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to resolve the Israeli-Arab conflict. The DFLP considered Sharon's plan part of the Israeli policy to expel the Palestinians from their lands in favor of the projected greater Israel. It reaffirmed its adherence to the PLO's peace plan. The PFLP said Sharon's plan does not serve the peace process and proves the Likud's determination to terminate the Palestine question and the intifadah in the occupied territories.

Yesterday, Sharon announced what he called his plan to resolve the conflict. The five-point plan calls for opening borders between Israel and Jordan for an experimental six-month period and for exchanging visits between the two sides; solving the problem of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip camps by transferring them to modern residential areas; a Jordanian commitment not to allow Arab troops into its territory; granting the West Bank Palestinians autonomy to administer their private affairs—with the exception of internal and external security matters—in order to end the intifadah, according to Sharon's plan. He repeated that the Palestinian state is Jordan and that Jerusalem is not a subject of negotiations.

DFLP Spokesman Denies Reports of Split

*JN1902171890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT
19 Feb 90*

[Text] Tunis, 19 (INA)—A spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has denied reports by international news agencies of a split threatening the front as it prepares to celebrate its 21st anniversary.

In a statement today, the spokesman added that the reports aim to distort the role played by the DFLP in alliance with all nationalist forces against plans to bypass the PLO and circumvent the Palestinian peace initiative.

Fatah Committee Greets DFLP on Anniversary

*JN1602193090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Feb 90*

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee has congratulated the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] on the occasion of its 21st anniversary. The Central Committee sent a message of congratulations to

this effect to DFLP Secretary General brother Nayif Hawatimah. The following is the text of the message:

Brother Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, brothers and comrades members of the DFLP Political Bureau: Greetings of the revolution. With full appreciation and delight, and with the deepest feelings of brotherhood and militant cohesion, we, the Fatah Central Committee, in the name of all the movement's strugglers, address you, and through you, all cadres and members of the DFLP on the occasion of celebrating the 21st anniversary of launching the front, wishing you heartfelt congratulations. The Fatah Movement reiterates to you on this glorious anniversary, which it also celebrates with you along with the masses of our Palestinian people, the pledge and the oath to continue the struggle hand in hand and side by side as comrades in the same trench and a victorious march under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, in close ranks within its framework along the lines of its program toward the realization of all our people's objectives of freedom and independence.

While reiterating its warmest congratulations and salutations, beseeching God to have mercy on the souls of all our people's martyrs, recalling our one militant march, and inspiring our revolutionary militant experience and its deep lessons, the Fatah Central Committee looks forward with you and with all the strugglers of our heroic people and their revolutionaries to the bright future—the victorious future which we will achieve together through continuous revolution and escalating intifadah on the basis of our entrenched national unity. This national unity takes pride in its deep roots and genuine democracy until we accomplish all the national objectives of our people and enable them to exercise their full national sovereignty in their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Under the decisive circumstances being experienced by our people's cause, this should urge us to double our efforts to achieve our unity and to escalate our struggle and intifadah by all means and resources in order to safeguard the great historic gains realized by the longstanding struggle and generous sacrifices of our people. We must confront these grave challenges and various conspiracies which are not only aimed at undermining our people's victories and achievements, but also at liquidating their cause and rights. We are confident that our heroic people, their great revolution, and glorious intifadah are capable of confronting challenges, defeating them, and achieving a righteous victory while being armed with unity, awareness, and a free will. Working hand in hand, O comrades-in-arms, and in the same trench, together we will continue the revolution and escalate the intifadah on the road to victory and to the establishment of our independent Palestinian state. It is a revolution until victory!

'Arafat Discusses PLO Initiative on Lebanon**With Syrian Ambassador**

*LD1902213790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Text] The brother leader, president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday received Ahmad 'Isa, the ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in Tunisia.

During the audience, discussions revolved around the Palestinian initiative which aims at stopping the hemorrhage in Lebanon; the need to strengthen Arab solidarity to confront the challenges of this phase; and the danger of the emigration of Soviet Jews for Arab national

security in general and the future of the occupied Palestinian territories in particular.

With Tripartite Committee

*LD1902213990 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Text] The brother leader, President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], yesterday received the members of the Arab tripartite committee. The audience centered on the Palestinian initiative which aims at stopping the hemorrhage in Lebanon and the strengthening of Arab efforts for a cease-fire. Developments in the Palestinian issue, especially the danger of the influx of Soviet Jews for Arab national security and the occupied Palestinian territories, were also reviewed.

Algeria

Teachers' Strike Assessed; Dialogue Urged

UGTA Backs Strike

LD1902201290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The doors of primary and secondary schools remained closed today. The reason is known: It is the continuation of the partial strike in the primary and secondary education sector. The strike continues despite the call to go back to work issued by the council of the government in a statement made following its meeting yesterday evening.

The statement of the council of the government said the conditions prevailing before the strike confirm the presence of political motives, supported by those who accept neither the democratic movement, nor the free representation of the workers, nor the responsible dialogue regarding current real problems and the future of youth.

The council of the government considered the strike illegal and called on the teachers to resume work; otherwise, financial and disciplinary measures, applicable by law in similar conditions, will be taken.

This morning the national radio took the initiative of contacting Mr. Mohamed Lakhdar Lakhdari, a national secretary of the Algerian General Workers' Union [UGTA], and talked to him about this issue. More precisely, the dialogue was conducted by our colleague Abdelmoumen Bakkar on the reaction of the UGTA to the statement issued yesterday by the council of ministers.

[Begin recording] [Bakkar] Mr. Mohamed Lakhdari, you undoubtedly followed the statement issued yesterday evening by the council of the government which considers the teachers' strike and the strike in the education sector as illegal. [passage omitted] We would like to know the stand of the Algerian General Workers' Union vis-a-vis the government's stand.

[Lakhdari] We would like to talk frankly about this subject because we hoped that the Algerian Government—following the strike witnessed by workers in the education sector, and the gathering staged by teachers in front of the people's hall to claim some of their usurped rights—would show a flexible stand which would make it open its doors for representatives of the workers and the national trade union to discuss the workers' problems and find common ground which will enable us to settle the problems posed by the education sector in general. But, we regret this statement which uses a threatening tone and intimidation. The meaning of the government statement is clear. It is threatening the workers in education, teaching, and teachers in general, with collective expulsion, financial prosecution, i.e. stopping wages.

We think that this is not proper language for the government. At a time when we are calling for dialogue, for the ministry's and the government's doors to open so that we discuss the workers' problems on grounds of understanding for the benefit of workers in general, here is the government using a threatening tone which we reject from the outset; we do not accept it at all, owing to the fact that we are defending a right and we cannot relinquish workers' rights whatever the threats.

[Bakkar] Mr. Lakhdari, as you are talking about dialogue, discussion, and so on, the Ministry of Education a few days issued ago a statement to this effect. Now you are calling for dialogue, and so is the ministry. So where do you disagree?

[Lakhdari] Let me tell you, brother, that two union national secretaries went to the ministry to negotiate with the minister, but the minister refused to receive them and to discuss the issue in the presence of the national union. So who is avoiding dialogue? Is it the government or the UGTA? This is the question.

[Bakkar] Anyway, we promise you that we will submit this question to the minister as we try, now and then, to contact him for some answers.

[Lakhdari] Thank you.

[Bakkar] On the basis of the council of government's statement which says that the strike has a political nature or that the people behind the strike have political objectives—more specifically, that these are objectives advocated by those who do not accept the democratic move, free representation of workers, or responsible dialogue, what is your interpretation of the statement?

[Lakhdari] Regarding the statement there is an intimation by the government in that direction. However, we are replying to it quite openly and clearly so that national public opinion will be aware that the UGTA was among the first to adopt economic and political reforms.

[Bakkar] An agreement was signed recently between a trade union representative or a representative of the workers, the workers of the education sector, and the Ministry of Education. According to the documents available to us, the agreement bears the UGTA seal. However, a few hours after the signing of the agreement we were surprised to learn that a committee which calls itself the followup committee has rejected the agreement completely.

[Lakhdari] Regarding the seal which bears the sector's mark, this is a an internal administrative matter. There are special administrative measures stipulated in the UGTA constitution, and we will bear responsibility for our measures and duties if the sector has made a mistake in signing the statement. The official spokesman for primary school teachers is the national union which has full authority to negotiate with the ministry to solve the problems of that sector, and the national union rejected the statement but the sector signed it. Therefore, we will

shoulder our responsibilities in this regard. This is an internal matter which has nothing to do with the ministry or the government.

[Bakker] Mr. Lakhdari, if you permit me; this proves that there is an internal dispute within the UGTA.

[Lakhdari] There is no internal dispute. We cannot call it an internal dispute because it is not a dispute among the masses of workers. It is a dispute with a person who has signed a statement at the spur of the moment, maybe by mistake. However, this does not mean that the UGTA has sold out on the workers' rights. On the contrary, we are saying that the National Union of Fundamental Education has rejected the government's statement and consequently, we are demanding that dialogue with the ministry concerned should continue to find a common basis of understanding.

[Bakker] It is 12 days since the teachers' strike began. According to my understanding of what you said, there is no solution, or the dialogue has reached a dead end. Do you perceive a solution, because the students and pupils are the ones who are suffering?

[Lakhdari] We greatly appreciate the position of the students' guardians. Teachers are also guardians of the students and have children at schools. However, the issue concerns rights and there is no room for compromise whatever pressures there may be. Regarding the strike, we know that if it reaches a dead end its repercussions will affect the educational system and the students. Therefore, the UGTA will take measures on behalf of the sector's workers on the basis of circumstances and developments in the issue.

[Bakker] I hope that all the parties concerned with this issue will follow the path of dialogue because it is the only solution in the circumstances prevalent in the educational system currently. Mohamed Lakhdari, thank you for responding to the national radio's invitation. [end recording]

FLN Appeals for End to Strike

*LD1902230590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau today addressed an appeal to all the striking lecturers and teachers to return to their jobs and fulfill their duties toward the sons of the nation. It also urged that the doors of dialogue should be left open to continue efforts to solve the sector's problems, towards the solving of which great efforts have already been made. The Political Bureau believes that efforts to solve problems in teaching does not necessarily require harming the future of students.

Education Minister Denounces Strike

*LD1902230390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1933 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Excerpts] As we promised you, ladies and gentlemen, here follows the detailed clarifications of the situation in

the education sector, which is currently witnessing unrest as a result of the teachers' strike. The clarifications were made by the minister of education.

[Begin Mohamed Mili Brahimi recording] In the name of God. No doubt you heard or read the statement which was issued yesterday by the council of the government. This expressed the government's concern with the issues of youth and with the education establishment, which is strongly connected with the problems currently being experienced by the youth.

While the government expresses its concern with the current situation of the education and teaching sector, some of the quarters which called for the strike that is being witnessed by the country for about two weeks have turned towards utilizing the problems of the sector to accomplish undeclared objectives which have nothing to do with the interests of the teaching community or with the national interest, but which seek to undermine political stability and to subvert the democratic process.

The government has on more than one occasion affirmed its determination to bring back to the teaching profession its credibility and improve its output, programs, and staff. At the same time, it intends to preserve those achievements that are related to democracy in education and give attention to problems of a professional, social, and pedagogic nature as part of a program that is realistic and ambitious at the same time, a program which depends on the utmost mobilization of all existing means.

In this context, it should be recalled that the specific law for the education and teaching sector, and the grading which accompanied it and which the government ratified on 31 December 1989, was made within a responsible framework of negotiations which represents a compromise and, in spite of that, commits the state to a respectable additional financial effort. Indeed, the government did not hesitate to allocate this sum in view of its recognition of the importance of the sector. However, at the same time, the government points out that this sum cannot be exceeded in light of the difficult economic circumstances being witnessed by the country, circumstances which all sectors suffer from, especially the most needy. [passage omitted]

On this basis, efforts to achieve the aim of improving the financial and moral conditions of the sector should be made within the context of a more comprehensive endeavor embodied by the gradual implementation of the reforms to which the government has committed itself and in which the educational establishment occupies a privileged position. For this reason, a final limit should be put on the prolonged strike, the danger of which is increased by the fact that it is destroying one of the basic foundations of stability and the building of the future. This requires the education and teaching sector to assume its responsibilities and organize itself through a genuine representative body, a body which will be a serious partner in the dialogue, an important party among the relevant parties in directing the ship of

education to the coast of salvation, away from partisan excesses and old positions. In this respect, we must recognize that among the quarters agitating for the strike are those who consider trade union work a career which preserves positions and protects privileges and not an honorable duty, tiresome responsibility, and a noble work which serves a cause and defends the destiny of [words indistinct].

In considering this strike illegal, the government announces the enforcement of the law in confronting it. It also affirms its rejection of all types of pressure which aim at obstructing the freedom of work, harm the rights of the child, and violate the right of the student to acquire knowledge. The government condemns the efforts of some people to wrest absolute representation in the entire education sector through the use of this or that type of pressure, violence, and threat. It affirms its determination to ensure the necessary protection of everybody who is anxious to fulfill their duty in the context of the resolute implementation of the law. At the same time, it affirms its continued readiness to open dialogue with genuine representatives, without excesses and demagoguery and for the sake of cooperating to resolve the problems of the education establishment and to develop it so that it becomes a major instrument among the mobilized means of determining the course of development, a matter that will enable Algeria to face the challenges of the era while adhering to the principles and preserving all the basic features of its special character—the Arabic language and Islamic soul. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Workers Union Seeks Conference

LD1902230790 *Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic*
2200 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The National Bureau of the National Union of Education Workers today issued the following statement:

Within the concentrated efforts of the union, a meeting was held today at the Ministry of Education between the minister of education and the members of the National Bureau. A number of points were discussed in that meeting, particularly the grading, allowances, increments, special cadre, grading of professional workers, and the final report of the education system.

After listening to the minister's replies to these points, the National Union of Education Workers invites the representatives of all the provinces of Algeria—three representatives from every province—to attend the emergency national conference, which will be held on 23 of this month in Constantine Province.

Egypt

Editorial Derides U.S. Report on Palestinian State

JN2002110890 *Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic*
18 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Fooling Others!"]

[Text] Nobody understands the secret behind the recent U.S. report which says that the Palestinian state is unquestionably forthcoming, and in fact inevitable, and that its establishment is only a matter of time. This is because the report has come at a time when external pressure on the Arabs and the Palestinian rights has actually increased to the point of suffocation as a result of opening the doors for the second historic exodus of European Jews to the land occupied by Israel.

O Arabs, rejoice in this "precious" report, which the U.S. intelligence has leaked to THE WASHINGTON POST as a press scoop, because it contains very pleasing and soothing talk.

The report says the Palestinians now hold the reins of the psychological initiative and represent the peace camp because they are demanding their rights and avoiding the use of arms in their confrontation with the Israeli camp, which is denying these rights and resorting to arms and repression! Rejoice, O Arabs. The report gives you a fair deal and achieves all of your legitimate rights!

However, we say that this alleged report is being published at this time in particular to serve as a tranquilizer to reassure the Arabs and make them feel at ease. Why not? After all, the Palestinian state is within reach, as the report says, despite the hundreds of thousands of Jews who have arrived and the millions of others who will follow under a long-term plan to settle Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe on Palestinian territory or what is still left of it! So, rest assured, O Arabs. The recent report by the most notorious U.S. agency supports you and reassures you that your state is forthcoming! Do not worry and do not believe what others say. Do not believe what your eyes see and your minds tell you even if it is to the contrary. The Palestinian state will be established soon. U.S. politicians say so and even the decisionmakers in Washington believe so. They have reached this opinion thanks to the intifadah!

The report says the Palestinians are holding the reins of the psychological initiative but no one knows what that means. It could only mean something other than the real and actual initiative. After all, the Palestinians now belong to the good peace camp that does not fight and only receives blows. As for Israel, it is the naughty state which regrettably still resorts to arms and repression! Rejoice, O Arabs!!

Minister Demands Halt to Jewish Emigrant Flights

JN1702154090 *Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic*
15 Feb 90 pp 1, 4

[By Ayman Nur]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Fu'ad Sultan has issued strict instructions to travel agencies demanding a halt to flights of Soviet Jews via Cairo. A security memorandum received by the Ministry of Tourism disclosed that some Egyptian

tourist agencies receive groups of Soviet Jews for two days in Cairo before these groups depart for Israel for immigration purposes.

There has been information that the Jewish agency [not further identified] has booked more than 90 percent of the flights from Moscow to Cairo up through May 1990. There has also been an agreement with some tourist transportation companies to transport the immigrants through the land route for \$25 or 61 Egyptian pounds per passenger. The director of a foreign airlines office in Cairo said his company decided to increase the number of flights between Moscow and Cairo to four a week instead of three as of the second of March to cope with the increasing pressure on flights from Moscow, which are fully booked until May. There has also been information that flights from Moscow by three foreign companies that make a transit stopover in Cairo are fully booked for a period of one to three months. A representative of a tourist company that organizes daily tours to Tel Aviv claimed that the pressure over the past few months has been due to the fact that Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel book their flights from Moscow to Cairo and take the only land route to Tel Aviv via Rafah. He said the reason was the lack of direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv until the first of January and the pressure on flights from Moscow to Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest, and from these capitals to Tel Aviv.

The same source said that both the Hungarian and Romanian airlines announced that their flights to Israel devoted to transporting Soviet Jews are fully booked until the beginning of 1991, and that flights from Leningrad to Budapest are fully booked until July 1992. The director of a tourist company in Cairo stressed that his company has recently received groups of Soviet tourists which requested bookings to Tel Aviv. He denied that his company is involved in transportation operations and stressed that it only provides a stay of two days in a three-star hotel to these tourists. He claimed one of his rival companies transported 600 tourists through the land route during January. The same source pointed out that the Soviet Jews prefer this means of travel because it is cheap and allows them more luggage weight than permitted by airline companies.

Ghali Denies Jewish Emigration Via Egypt

*NC1902172590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt rejects the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. He said that Egyptian policy has always been based on rejecting the establishment of any Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that reports that a number of Soviet immigrants arrived in Israel via Egypt are false and groundless.

Al-Baz, Palestinian Envoy Discuss Relations

*NC1802122390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT
18 Feb 90*

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, met this morning with the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal.

Following the meeting, Kamal stated that he reviewed Egyptian-Palestinian relations with Dr. al-Baz, who briefed him on his talks in Moscow on Soviet Jews emigration to Israel. According to Kamal, Dr. al-Baz sensed the Soviet leadership's understanding of the Arab stand on that issue during his meetings with Soviet officials.

In an interview with a MENA correspondent, Ambassador Kamal welcomed the visit to Egypt today by Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. He said Palestinians welcome the visit because it revives Arab solidarity at a critical phase for the Palestinian cause.

The Palestinian envoy expressed the hope that the Egyptian-Libyan meeting will bring good results for the two peoples, the Arab nation, and the Palestinian cause which, he believes, will top the two leaders' agenda, since it is central Arab issue.

Ghali on Relations With PLO, Jewish Immigration

*NC1902201290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1919 GMT
19 Feb 90*

[Text] London, 19 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has affirmed that Egypt will continue its efforts in the peace process. He added that Egypt still hopes that the proposed meeting among the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state will take place and be followed by the initiation of Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

In a statement broadcast by London radio today, Dr. Ghali denied that relations between Egypt and the PLO have deteriorated. He noted that the majority of the PLO members have taken a clear stand condemning the attack on the Israeli tourist bus. However, he pointed out that statements issued by certain leaders, including Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), did not explicitly condemn the attack.

Regarding Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, Dr. Ghali said that Egypt (?does not object) to this immigration so long as it is confined to the state of Israel itself. However, if it involves the establishment of new settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, then it will be a violation of the Geneva Convention and contradict the spirit of the agreement signed between Egypt and Israel.

Dr. Ghali asked: How can they begin a new peace process based on the principle of exchanging land for peace while they encourage immigrants to settle in the occupied territories? He added: Even if only a small number of Soviet Jews go to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip today, the Arabs still need some form of international guarantee or any other means to ensure that this is not repeated in the future.

Columnist Attacks 'Arafat, Palestinian Leaders

JN1902211290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
18 Feb 90 p 20

["Stances" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] Whenever you meet Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], he keeps telling you: My workers do this and that; this year we sold oranges and olives worth millions of dollars; the strikes we organized have spread; in occupied Palestine I have....

We are glad to hear this and to know that 'Arafat is responsible for these things. We would be glad to see a state with him as its president. If this is a dream, then it is also our hope. There is no revolution without a dream or imagination, and no historical vision has ever failed to come true.

We advised Abu-'Ammar to avoid saying on every occasion that the intifadah was his own creation and conception. It would be better to say that the intifadah emerged from the inferno of injustice, protesting coercion and occupation. That being so, the intifadah is a liberation movement that deserves the greatest respect of the entire world: These are angry men, bowing toward the earth, as if praying; they are throwing stones at the occupation, as if the stones were curses. Again, it is the story of Goliath and David.

David was the clever young Jew, and Goliath was the Palestinian young man, the brute force. According to the Bible, the clever David fought the brute Goliath. Now, however, David is the brute force and Goliath is the noble, rational, and clever man who resists injustice with symbolic stones—and whoever seeks the help of stones is in fact using an inexhaustible resource.

The earth is full of stones, and it is the stones that jump from the hands to the air. But Abu-'Ammar was torn between two things: either to say that his authority extended to the occupied territories and he was masterminding the intifadah, or to say that his authority existed throughout the world except in Palestine. He chose to take this great honor from them!

If the people who are carrying out the intifadah, whose fingers produce the stones, had known the kind of floor walked on by the Palestinian leaders, they would not have picked up a single stone. Their floor is carpeted, their hands covered with diamonds, and their chests adorned with Cardin and Dior. Their nights are indeed red—although it is with wine, not blood—and of other

colors that make the mind so ecstatic that it forgets. We know what they want to forget. They have neither resisted nor fought; rather, they have stolen the sweat of the noble and honorable young men in the occupied territories.

PLO's Al-Hasan Assails Jewish Immigration

NC1602195890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT
16 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo for Kuwait this afternoon after a three-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, Hani al-Hasan said his visit is part of an Arab tour to formulate a joint Arab plan to confront Jewish immigration to Palestine. He emphasized that the immigration greatly harms the security of Palestinians and neighboring Arab countries, particularly Jordan. Al-Hasan pointed out that the PLO will launch an official, popular campaign to confront the Jewish immigration.

AL-AHRAM Columnist Assails PLO's Khalaf

JN1802190690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
17 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

["Calmly Speaking" column by Ibrahim Nafi: "Abu-Iyad's Snakes"]

[Text] Regrettably, I find myself today obliged to reply to a well-known Palestinian leader, who, with an appalling sense of superiority, has attacked the Egyptian press, including AL-AHRAM, for criticizing the PLO statement on the bus incident in which 11 innocent people were killed. The Egyptian press described the statement as weak, poor, and disappointing to the Egyptian people, who were expecting the Palestinian leaders to condemn clearly and unequivocally the criminal act of aggression against Egypt's sovereignty, security, and stability.

It is indeed strange that Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, known as Abu-Iyad, should come up with a statement to London radio [not further identified], recorded in his own voice, describing the Egyptian papers' criticism of the PLO statement as interference in the internal affairs of the PLO and the Palestinian people.

But Abu-Iyad was not satisfied with this; he went on to say: "There is a group of Egyptian journalists who are used to creating and fabricating crises" and that these journalists "poke their noses into everything, as the Egyptian proverb goes." This means these journalists purvey scandal. His excellency continues: "We do not react to these journalists because they are snakes from well-known dens; we put the major blame on the Egyptian Government, which must stop this disgrace!"

When asked about coordination between the PLO and Egypt on the peace process and how far this coordination has gone, the Palestinian leader replied that Egypt's

efforts to bring viewpoints on the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue closer have been exhausted and that the ball is now in the American court. Answering another question, he said peace opportunities are reaching a hopeless dead end and that further violence, extremism, and attacks in the region can be expected if we continue along this road.

These are his words, recorded in his own voice; this time, they cannot be denied by him or by anybody else.

This irresponsible attack by a high-ranking Palestinian leader should not pass without a pause for assessment.

To begin with, the Egyptian press has an honorable record in defending pan-Arab issues and the Palestine question. It is enough for the Egyptian press to boast the recent vicious political and media campaign against it in Israel, launched under the pretext that the Egyptian papers go too far in their support for the Palestine cause and plant seeds of hatred against Israel in Egypt.

The Egyptian papers, brother Abu-Iyad, belong only to the Egyptian soil, and their journalists are only loyal to their national and pan-Arab affiliation. And because there exist in Egypt honorable men who are not used to selling themselves to others, performing the role of agents, or changing their position overnight, it is a matter of ingratitude and denial, indeed, an act beyond all reason, to accuse them of being snakes from well-known dens. Such an accusation, is certainly a flagrant, unprecedented attack against the dignity of journalists. Some heedless words from a Palestinian leader who is used to leaping forward and then withdrawing, denying, or apologizing, will not change this fact. His forward leap, this time, has gone beyond all limits. Abu-Iyad knows the snakes and their dens only too well, and they exist within his domain. The disgrace he is talking about is non-existent; the bigger disgrace is for him to ignore the clear fact that the press in Egypt is free and the government cannot impose anything on it. But the more serious disgrace is for Abu-Iyad to imagine that the Egyptian papers will ignore his cheap abuse by using the famous excuse of maintaining good relations. He was wrong in claiming that the Egyptian papers are responsible for creating and fabricating crises. In so saying, he forgets or pretends to forget that crises are created by mistaken logic and unethical conduct, such as the criminal attack against the tourist bus, whether by instigation, perpetration, or plotting in the snakes' dens; crises are not made by press comment on, or criticism of such conduct.

And what does Abu-Iyad mean by interference?

The unacceptable interference is found in these reckless words by Abu-Iyad—words that once again imply support and backing for such crimes, the recurrence of which on Egyptian soil will neither be accepted nor allowed by the Egyptian people.

What is this speculation on rights and reality? Egypt, without any exaggeration, is the only Arab country that has not interfered in the PLO's internal affairs, and that

has always struggled to strengthen the principle of independent Palestinian decisionmaking and to enable the PLO to be the sole party that truly expresses the hopes and pains of the Palestinian people. Our role as Arab governments and peoples has always been to support the Palestinian decision. Moreover, Egypt is the only country that has not established its own Palestinian organization to compete with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; has not practiced bloody and political liquidation against the Palestinians; and has not, first and last, practiced oneupmanship on Palestinian policies—policies that Egypt still supports in all regional and international circles.

What a departure from reality this is! Regarding Abu-Iyad's claim that Egypt has exhausted all its efforts and energies to reach a solution, his colleagues in the Palestinian leadership may conclude that, by making this statement—which he has no right to make—he has made himself the PLO's sole leader and asked Egypt to discontinue its efforts. It is these statements, and nothing else, that fan the fire, cough out poison, and fabricate crises. If Egypt believed that its efforts or role had ended or stopped, it would have announced this to the public, because Egypt's support for the Palestine question is a strategic decision. Therefore, it is not a question of announcement or nonannouncement. Has the great Palestinian leader not realized that these irresponsible words, which do not serve the issue, will have a negative effect on Egyptian public opinion at a time when the Egyptian people see that, despite its overburdened circumstances, their country is exerting honest efforts to solve the Palestine question? As a result, do not statements by a Palestinian leader shock the Egyptian people when he says that Egypt's efforts are useless and its role has ended and is no longer necessary? Will these irresponsible words not strengthen isolationists' calls, encourage the abandonment of efforts that are not appreciated by those who benefit from them, and prompt us to concentrate on our own numerous problems? Will this foolishness not encourage an isolationist voice in Egypt to rise and call for taking our hands off the Palestine question? We have suffered a lot for this cause, not the least of which is the denial of our efforts by some of those who benefit from them. Has the PLO's ideologue and philosopher, who casts doubt on the Egyptian press' loyalty, not thought of this?

The PLO has actually begun a dialogue with the United States and Israel on the issue. This dialogue was the fruit of an Egyptian effort that cannot be denied by anyone. Everyone knows that negotiations require prolonged efforts that continue in spite of fatigue and despair in order to change old concepts and to create new ones that believe in peace.

How can the Palestinian leadership announce its despair at the first obstacle on the long road, or under psychological pressure from which a Palestinian leader is suffering—pressure that has prompted him to practice

hollow oneupmanship, make an irresponsible announcement constituting a retreat from the PLO's agreed strategies, and, moreover, to ask the people of the intifadah to follow suit? It is necessary to use every option to remove the obstacles and to exercise patience until the goals are achieved. This is the proper militant action, which concentrates on the real interests of the nations involved and not on temporary explosions and irresponsible words.

You, and all the real strugglers of the world, should follow the example of Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison without relinquishing his goals, political beliefs, and demands, and who finally regained his freedom with a new faith that there were real issues and changes that should be studied to reach a political settlement of his national issue.

For example, he says that the white minority has real fears that should be studied and dealt with responsibly, although the black majority's authority and their right to rule their country are indisputable.

He also tells his people, without oneupmanship or fear, that the confrontation will enter a complicated and difficult stage of dialogue with the white minority government and that the people of his country should prepare themselves for that.

This kind of struggle does not depend on oneupmanship, does not yield to the temptation to make statements, and does not level unjust accusations against everybody.

Learn a lesson from Mandela's experience and have mercy on your own people. But Egypt's people have only God as their refuge. As for the Palestinian people, they also have God as their refuge in their suffering under Israeli occupation, repression, and unprecedented brutality. May God help them in their suffering from the oneupmanship of some of their representatives.

Defendant in Attack on Israeli Bus Named

*JN1602144590 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
14 Feb 90 p 1*

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned that the real name of the defendant who masterminded the attack on the Israeli tourist bus is Akram 'Ajjuri.

He was previously charged in the case of an attack on the life of former Interior Minister General Hasan Abu-Basha and was released after the true culprits were apprehended. 'Ajjuri was charged in absentia with smuggling arms via Sinai.

Akram 'Ajjuri is affiliated with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group led by Rajab 'Arafat, who resides in Sudan and who is no relation whatsoever to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

A responsible source in the Supreme State Security Prosecution told AL-AHALI that the prosecution

demanding that the security organs arrest the convicts quickly, and noted that none of those arrested so far has been indicted.

Mubarak Comments on Arab, African Issues

*LD2002090590 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, has reaffirmed that the visit of the brother leader of the revolution to Aswan is within the framework of the series of meetings, which are assuming great significance. He pointed out that relations between the one Arab people in Libya and Egypt are as old as time itself, and that the families in both countries are interrelated.

In a statement made yesterday to JANA he added that his meeting with the brother leader of the revolution in Aswan is the fourth meeting, and reaffirmed that such meetings are useful; in particular, they give no opportunity to anyone to sow differences between the two countries, because certain people are inimical to good relations between the Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

President Mubarak said that the relationship between us—between our two countries—is very important especially with regard to the issues of our Arab nation at the present time, issues that need comprehensive study and a long-term view, and it is also very important economically owing to the location of the Arab nation on the map of the world, following the changes taking place in the world, as we are now facing an economic bloc in America, and Europe will be one state and a unified economic bloc in 1992.

President Husni Mubarak noted that the change now taking place in the world is a change from the one-party system and from theories proven useless. In his statement to JANA he said that socialism [words indistinct]. We endeavor to establish projects with companies under collective, not individual, ownership. He pointed out that ownership now is a monopoly ownership under government control.

In reply to a question about foreign interference in the African continent, in his capacity as the current chairman of the OAU, President Husni Mubarak said: I am making a great effort during my one-year chairmanship to find solutions to Africa's problems. He noted that there are many problems and great misunderstanding in Africa. President Mubarak stressed the necessity of continuing to implement the agreement between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad signed in Algiers last August. He also pointed out that there are many problems in the Horn of Africa, and appealed to all African heads of state to be aware of these problems. He particularly noted that there may be forces from outside the continent which are working to increase these problems, counter to African interests.

Regarding the danger surrounding the vital space of the Arab nation, especially the sources of water, President Mubarak said in conclusion: If there are problems within this framework, they can be solved by calm methods or through bilateral contacts.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves for 2-Day Visit to Spain

NC2002195890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0828 GMT
20 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Madrid this morning on a two-day visit to Spain. He will attend the Egyptian-Spanish joint committee meetings which will begin on 21 February and will last for two days.

In a predeparture statement, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the committee will discuss bilateral ties and how to promote them as well as international issues, particularly the Middle East situation. As a Mediterranean country and an EEC member, Spain plays an important role in this regard.

He said that the committee will discuss issues related to the Arab-European dialogue that began last December. It will also discuss establishing an Arab university for Arab and Islamic studies in Spain. He said that Egypt approved this project during an Arab-European dialogue session held last year.

He added that in cooperation with the EEC, establishing a scientific center in Cairo is being discussed.

Syrian Economy Minister Arrives 18 Feb

NC1802120790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT
18 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—Syrian Economy Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi arrived in Cairo this morning to attend the meetings of the Arab League Economic and Social Council which will begin at the Arab League Headquarters later today.

During his stay in Cairo, the Syrian minister is expected to hold talks with Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, on bolstering trade and economic relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Meets With Makramallah

NC1902185590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1806 GMT
19 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has met with Syrian Economy and Trade Minister Muhammad al-'Imadi, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they discussed economic cooperation between Egypt and Syria within the framework of strengthening ties in economic fields. Also attending the meeting was Syrian Central Bank

Governor Muhammad al-Sharif, who will meet with officials at the Egyptian Central Bank to discuss bolstering bilateral economic ties.

Mubarak Reportedly To Visit Damascus

NC1802121190 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] A high-ranking Egyptian official has announced that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak plans to visit Damascus later this month. In an interview with REUTER, the official said the visit will probably take place after the Arab Cooperation Council summit to be held in Amman.

Soviet Economic Official Meets With Makramallah

NC1502175390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1641 GMT
15 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, met with Vladimir Mordvinov, Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations, today after his arrival earlier.

A responsible economic source at the Ministry of International Cooperation has said that they discussed ways to promote economic cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union in preparation for Egyptian-Soviet joint committee meeting in March.

The meeting was attended by Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abaazah; Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab; and Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Genadiy Zhuravlev.

Concludes Visit, Departs 18 Feb

NC1802161190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1511 GMT
18 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—A Soviet economic delegation led by Vladimir Mordvinov, Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations, left Cairo this afternoon, winding up a week-long official visit to Egypt.

Dr Hasan Salim, under secretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, accompanied the Soviet delegation to the airport. Dr Salim said that the visit was a continuation of the talks which began in Moscow in January 1989 concerning the long-term cooperation program between Egypt and the Soviet Union. During the visit, Dr Salim said, Egyptian and Soviet officials discussed cooperation during the next 10 years in the economic, technical, and tourism fields. Several new projects proposed by various ministries in Egypt and the USSR were also discussed, Dr Salim said.

Soviet Interior Official Arrives on Visit 18 Feb
NC1802130090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1223 GMT
18 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Zhakimov [title and name as received] arrived in Cairo at the head of an Interior Ministry delegation this afternoon for a week-long visit to Egypt in response to Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa's invitation. The delegation will acquaint itself with work and regulations in some police organs and will meet with the interior minister and police commands to discuss developing relations between the Egyptian and Soviet Interior Ministries. Interior Minister first assistant Major General 'Abd al-Halim Badawi met the Soviet official at the airport.

Pakistani Minister Delivers Message to Mubarak
NC1902164190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1529 GMT
19 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—Khan Bahadur Khan, Pakistani minister of religious affairs and minorities, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit which will last several days.

In an arrival statement, he said he is bringing a message for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from Pakistani Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto on the situation in Kashmir. [passage omitted]

Liberian Foreign Minister Arrives 16 Feb
NC1602201290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT
16 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—Liberian Foreign Minister Rudolph Johnson arrived here this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt. Upon his arrival, he said that he will convey a message from Liberian President Samuel Doe to President Husni Mubarak. He added that on 17 February he will meet with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to discuss ways of promoting bilateral relations and establishing a joint committee for cooperation between the two countries.

Dr Husni Jad-al-Haq, director of the Foreign Ministry's African Department, who received the Liberian minister at the airport, said Egyptian-Libarian relations are close and there are Egyptian experts working in Liberia as part of the technical cooperation between the two countries. He added that currently Liberians are being trained in Egypt at the Police Academy, the Arab Academy for Maritime Transport, and the agricultural institutes.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1902085790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0831 GMT
19 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—Liberian Minister of Foreign Affairs Rudolph Johnson left Cairo this morning

following a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from the Liberian president.

The Liberian minister met also with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and reviewed developments in Liberia and the efforts being made to bring about stability to the Middle East region. He also signed an agreement on setting up an Egyptian-Libarian joint ministerial committee.

Libya

Agenda Set for Pan-Arab Seminar in Tripoli
LD1902144790 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Tomorrow, in Tripoli, in the Great Jamahir-iyah, a pan-Arab seminar will be held on the Arab situation and international changes. A number of political, cultural, and literary figures from various parts of the Arab homeland will take part in the seminar, which will go on for two days. The convening of the seminar coincides with the 32d anniversary of the establishment of the United Arab Republic. The seminar will study the following topics:

First: The dimensions of the international changes:

1. International detente from Yalta to Malta.
2. The changes in Eastern Europe and the Jewish migration to occupied Palestine.
3. Comprehensive European unity; Germany unity.
4. The world on the threshold of the 21st century; the future of the Third World.

Second: The Arab situation:

1. The retreat of the Arab liberation movement and the acceptance of the policy of Camp David.
2. The Palestinian question and the confrontation of the Zionist enemy.
3. Avoidance of the negative aspects of the inter-Arab conflict.
4. Solution of the Lebanese question.
5. Overcoming the Iraq-Iran [word indistinct].
6. Developing the Arab unions into one comprehensive Arab union.
7. The Arab economic situation.

Third:

1. Criticism of the Arab situation ideologically and politically.
2. The pan-Arab alternative for the solutions under discussion.

Fourth: Preparation for convening a pan-Arab general popular conference. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Economy Minister Arrives 16 Feb*LD160223790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1608 GMT
16 Feb 90*

[Text] Tripoli, 16 February (JANA)—The Tunisian Minister of National Economy, Moncef Belaid, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this afternoon. In a statement to JANA, brother Moncef expressed his pleasure and that of the delegation accompanying him at visiting the Great Jamahiriyyah. He said: I and the delegation accompanying me have come to study and discuss a number of joint issues, particularly in the economic sector, in a way that would serve the interests of the same Arab people in the two brotherly countries.

Mauritania**Human Rights League Protests Tunisia's Remarks***AB1702212590 Paris AFP in English 1706 GMT
14 Feb 90*

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, Feb 14 (AFP)—The Mauritanian Human Rights League has suspended its contribution towards the creation of a Maghreb League in protest at remarks by Tunisia's Human Rights League president, it announced here Wednesday.

Tunisian League President Moncef Marzouki had announced that the Mauritanian League would be meeting representatives of its counterpart in Senegal to try to ease the conflict between the two countries. But the Mauritanian League in a statement Wednesday accused Mr. Marzouki of "egotistical and virtually treasonable" motives for the announcement. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns to Nouakchott From Cairo*AB1802210890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
1430 GMT 17 Feb 90*

[Text] Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Nouakchott this morning from Cairo. In a statement to (?the press), the minister said he paid a visit to Sanaa where he delivered a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, to his Yemeni counterpart, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He disclosed that this message concerns the fraternal relations existing between the two sister countries.

He added that during his stay in Cairo he attended the deliberations of the OAU Liberation Committee which took place from 12 to 14 February.

Morocco**Returnees Describe Polisario 'Disintegration'***LD1302225290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 13 Feb 90*

[Excerpt] Today a new group of Saraoui citizens, who returned home recently, held a news conference to expose the disintegration in the ranks of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] mercenaries and the current situation of those detained in the camps in the region of Tindouf.

At the beginning of this news conference, Mr. Malaaynine Mrabi Rabou, who recently returned to the mother country, recorded that the number of citizens escaping from Tindouf camps was increasing and began to escalate after the August royal amnesty of all those citizens who were deceived. This has violently shaken the ranks of the Polisario hardliners, who could not limit the numbers of those returning, whether as individuals or as groups, in spite of the various kinds of torture, oppression, and irritation to which they were exposed.

On the other hand, he stressed that those returning are accompanied by Mauritanian citizens returning to their country as they now have found out that all the Polisario schemes have failed, and after the Polisario had shown its true appalling image during the events of October 1988 in the various camps of Tindouf. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Holds Meeting 16 Feb*LD160222490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 16 Feb 90*

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting on 16 February 1990 at the royal palace. The council examined a number of draft laws and decrees and listened to numerous reports, including one by the minister of finance concerning the economic and financial situation in the country. His majesty indicated to the ministers the broad lines of his noble directives. [passage omitted]

Financial Cooperation Agreement Signed With Japan*LD1602152790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 16 Feb 90*

[Text] In Rabat today an agreement on financial cooperation was signed between Morocco and Japan. Morocco will receive a loan totaling 100 million U.S. dollars.

The signature ceremony was presided over by Minister of Finance Mohamed Berrada, Japanese Ambassador to Rabat Chiyuki Hiraoba, and Ahmed Cherkaoui, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation

The loan falls within the framework of mobilizing financial resources that are aimed at bolstering the structural

program which is targeted at providing a healthy and balanced start to our national economy.

Agricultural Program With Libya Planned

LD1702145490 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT
17 Feb 90

[Text] Rabat, Feb. 17 (MAP)—Morocco and Libya agreed on an agriculture program under which agricultural zones in Libya will be put at the disposal of Moroccan farmers for their improvement.

The program was agreed upon during the visit Moroccan Minister of Housing Abderrahman Bouftas paid to Libya February 10 to 13. The Moroccan minister's talks with Libyan officials centered on the improvement of agricultural lands and on means to promote natural resources and agricultural output.

It has thus been decided to set up three joint study groups on natural resources and agricultural production, construction material, equipment and energy and finally social affairs and human settlement.

Bouftas was received during the visit by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi.

Islamic Group Members Sentenced To Jail

LD1302183990 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1545 GMT
13 Feb 90

[Text] Rabat, 13 Feb (MAP)—The Court of First Instance in the town of Kenitra, situated 40 kilometers west of Rabat, has sentenced members of the Justice and Charity Association [Jam'iyat al-'Adl wal Ihsan] to jail terms varying from two years to nine months and fines estimated at between 10,000 and 20,000 dirhams. The court has also acquitted members of the aforementioned association. This has been reported by the Moroccan paper AL-'ALAM in today's issue.

The trial of the members of the Justice and Charity Association began on 22 January. The defendants were accused of creating an illegal association and holding illegal assemblies. They were, however, acquitted of the charge of undermining the Islamic faith. The accused in this trial were defended by more than 20 lawyers.

Sudan

Equatoria Commander Says Rebel Plan 'Foiled'

EA2002162690 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The commander of the Equatoria military area, Major General PSC [Passed Staff College] Nasr al-Din Sulayman, said recently that the Armed Forces have foiled a plan by the rebels to take over Juba. He said the Armed Forces have inflicted heavy losses on the rebels, pointing out that the recent shellings by the rebels were

aimed at taking over the town and subsequent declaration of a so-called Imatong [mountains] socialist republic with Juba as its capital. Maj. Gen. Sulayman said the plan was (?hatched) with the help of one of the neighboring countries in collaboration with some organizations that have interest in the wealth found in the south.

Gen. Sulayman said the rebels have massed more than 8,000 traitors around Juba at that time with tanks and heavy weapons, but they were smashed by the Armed Forces. He said many of rebels are now giving themselves up, as they experience their acute food shortage and declining morale. He said recently 33 rebels from the Mundari tribe surrendered to the Armed Forces in Terakeka area.

Southern Kurdufan Rebel Camp Allegedly Destroyed

EA2002210890 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Reports from the military operation zone indicated that the Armed Forces on Abyei area have destroyed a rebel camp in (Miyang) area. A reliable military source said the Armed Forces killed 25 rebels and the leader of the camp, who was a first lieutenant. Seven Kalashnikov rifles were captured during the fighting, in addition to one (Goronov) and one RPG-7. Three members of the Armed Forces died during the fighting.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces on the 17th of this month, in collaboration with the popular defense force in Mujlad area, killed 27 rebels and captured an RPG-7, five Kalashnikov rifles, and three G-3 rifles. Seven members of the Armed Forces died during the operations.

SPLA Cites Government 'Massacres' in Kurdufan

EA2002163390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] On Saturday, 3 February 1990, a force arrived Khartoum from Shandi—Battalion 117, Infantry. They were directed at Shandi to go to Khartoum to replace the positions of those who have gone to the south. But when they arrived Khartoum, they were ordered to go to Malakal and they disobeyed the orders, saying that they were told that their mission was only to Khartoum. About 106 of this Battalion 117 have been detained, among them First Lieutenant Salah Ibrahim.

Meanwhile, reliable sources from Kaduqli have informed Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] that the junta is killing citizens in large numbers in the Nubah mountains. After the massacres of innocent citizens, pictures of dead bodies in various forms of mutilation [were] taken and sent to Khartoum for use by the Morale Orientation Department of the army, alleging them to be SPLA atrocities.

Gen Tahir Confirms RCC Peace Drive Continues*EA1802183390 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT
18 Feb 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Feb (SUNA)—The defence operation and administrative movement of the Armed Forces troops in the south have no effects on the peace drives in which the revolution has been engaged, General Al-Tijan Adam Tahir said Sunday. Gen Tahir, Command Council member, told daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI dialogue remains the only means for achieving peace in the country.

Says No Talks With Political Parties*EA1802183090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT
18 Feb 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Feb (SUNA)—General al-Tijani Adam Tahir, Command Council member, denied any moves by the government for talks with leaders of the dissolved political parties in the country, daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reported today. The government has dissolved all political parties in the country since its advent on 30 June.

Al-Bashir Denies Torture of Political Detainees*EA1602125490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 15 Feb 90*

From the press review]

[Text] We find that AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSAL-LAHAH repeats the news interview which was carried out by the Saudi paper AL-BILAD with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir the leader of the National Salvation Revolution. Lieutenant General 'Umar emphasizes: Our relations with Saudi Arabia are more than excellent—they are strong and entrenched. Allegations that we are torturing political detainees are the result of rumors spread by elements which harbor animosity toward us.

Lt Gen 'Umar stressed to the Saudi paper AL-BILAD: There will be no bargaining over the Eritrean cause in exchange for Ethiopia withdrawing its support from the rebels the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. [sentence as heard]

Red Cross Statement on Food Situation*EA1602143390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 15 Feb 90*

[Text] Mr. Francis [last name indistinct], vice-president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], has stated in Khartoum that the Red Cross has handed the Sudanese Government a plan for air transport during the coming period. It is expected that the government will approve the dispatch of relief supplies to Juba, Wau, and Malakal, in addition to other rural areas in the southern regions, in al-Buhayrat Province and Equatoria Region, in addition to areas controlled by the rebel movement.

The ICRC official said in a statement to SUNA that the materials to be dispatched to those areas include seeds to help the rural population to cultivate their areas and be self-reliant, together with quantities of veterinary serums, medical drugs, and fishing implements, in addition to quantities of foodstuffs. He added that the ICRC is exerting efforts to send these materials in plenty of time before the coming autumn season.

He confirmed the continuation of the humanitarian activities and services being provided by the ICRC to the citizens affected by the war in the south. The ICRC official said the organization will work in coordination with the volunteer organizations and the Sudanese Government to distribute relief materials to those affected.

He said that the food situation in the southern regions is reassuring. He pointed out that the Red Cross in Sudan will soon implement an information program in coordination with the government information organs about restoring links between families which were scattered by the war. The program will provide these families with information on their missing family members.

Iraqi Cooperation Delegation Arrives 17 Feb*EA1802190990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1023 GMT
18 Feb 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Feb (SUNA)—An Iraqi delegation arrived Khartoum Saturday to boost cooperation between Sudan and Iraq in fields of sugar, fertilisers, spinning and leather manufacturing spheres. The Iraqi delegation is due to meet with industry minister later today, daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reported.

Al-Bashir Departs for Egypt Visit 20 Feb*EA2002193590 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT
20 Feb 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA)—This morning, the Revolution Command Council chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, left for Cairo on a one-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. During his visit he will discuss with his brother, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the progress of bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Tunisia**President Ben 'Ali Sends Message to Mandela***LD1202193790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 12 Feb 90*

["Text" of message sent by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Nelson Mandela]

[Text] The Tunisian people received with great pleasure and emotion the news of your release, which comes after many years of struggle and great sacrifices. I would like to express to you and to the brotherly people of South Africa our warm congratulations and sincere wishes that the ideals of

freedom, equality, and dignity, to which you have devoted your life with exemplary sacrifice, will triumph. I would like to reaffirm, on behalf of the Tunisian Government and people, our firm support and complete solidarity with our continued struggle to destroy apartheid, and to establish a democratic and nonracial state based on respect for human rights, which will represent stability and peace in Africa. Please accept my brotherly appreciation.

Ben 'Ali Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat 16 Feb

LD1802161890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic

2300 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben 'Ali met at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage yesterday evening with the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian president said that he had briefed the head of state on the developments concerning the Palestinian cause at all levels, whether regarding the uprising in the occupied territories or the required political moves, including the expected move at the Arab level to hold a meeting of the UN Security Council. Yasir 'Arafat said that this issue is laid before the Arab motherland, from the ocean to the Gulf. In this respect, he pointed out that he had emphasized to the esteemed president the necessity for action at the various levels—regional, Arab, and international—in order to face this great danger.

Ben 'Ali Receives Libyan General Commissioner

LD1702145590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic

1300 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben 'Ali received 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan general commissioner in Tunis.

Following the audience, 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi stated that he was honored to meet President Zine El Abidine Ben 'Ali, the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] chairman, to whom he conveyed a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi on bolstering the AMU's unionist action and consolidating its institutions. The message also mentions building ties and coordinating with other Arab unions, in addition to the excellent Tunisian-Libyan relations and the continuing unionist action between the two countries.

Mr 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi said: I have received full response and readiness from his excellency the president to consolidate common Maghreban and Arab action.

Western Sahara

Communique Urges Morocco To Implement Peace Plan

LD1602141690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic

2200 GMT 15 Feb 90 [Text] A communique from the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture released today in the liberated territories says that, if Morocco wants the realization of peace and brotherhood, it must begin with removal of the obstacles which prevent the implementation of the United Nations peace plan called for by the international community.

The Saharan communique urges Morocco to respond positively to the demands of international public opinion to help the visit of the UN secretary general's special envoy to the region. The Saharan communique wonders what concessions Morocco will offer to give a boost to the peace plan in the Western Sahara at a time when Morocco's image has been greatly tarnished due to its continuous violation of human rights.

Kuwait**USSR Envoy Comments on Jewish Emigration**

JN1702155090 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-AMM in Arabic
15 Feb 90 p 4

[By Rim Abu-Salih]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev has said Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine undermines world peace, and allegations against his country for facilitating this immigration or receiving huge funds from the United States are completely untrue.

At a news conference he conducted yesterday, he said: We are aware of the states' concern over the Zionist plan to settle Jews in the occupied territories. The ambassador began by apologizing for having postponed the news conference from the day before yesterday to yesterday. He said: This conference will focus on the Jews' emigration from the USSR and on the criticism being leveled at my country on this issue.

He said: We have the right to defend ourselves against the wave of criticism we have been exposed to since the decision to allow immigration to the occupied territories. The ambassador added the campaign against the USSR is based on incorrect information. He stressed this by giving examples. He said: A report citing unknown U.S. sources recently said the USSR has received \$1.5 billion in exchange for allowing Jews to emigrate from the USSR. He said: In fact, this is untrue, and it is an attempt to distort the truth and give us problems we do not need. He pointed out there have been some erroneous reports to the effect the number of Jewish immigrants from the USSR reached 100,000 during the last three years, and it now is a million and a half after immigration. [sentence as published]

He added: If we go back to some statistical information, we will find out that in 1979, there only were 1,000,810 Jews living in the USSR. This report, therefore, is considered a distortion of the truth. This is because we really do not have this number of Jews in the USSR. The ambassador denounced enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements and described them as provocative. He said Israeli plans to settle Jews in the occupied territories constitute a source of concern, not only to the Arab states, but also to the USSR itself. He added: I would like to draw the world's attention to some measures taken by the USSR and to the statements issued regarding this, such as the Soviet-U.S. joint statement issued on 10 February, which points to Israeli measures conflicting with the recognized international laws, which consequently lead to the escalation of tension and extremism in the Middle East, and to increasing the obstacles before efforts to settle the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question.

He added: In this statement, the USSR said it has not recognized and will not recognize the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, and that it strongly opposes settlements there.

The Soviet ambassador referred to the talks conducted in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, at which the two sides seriously discussed Israel's violation of international laws and its attempts to settle Jews in the occupied territories. He said: Our foreign minister expressed to the U.S. side our firm position on the Israeli practices, and particularly toward lodging a complaint with the UN Security Council against Israel regarding emigration. He also referred to some talks conducted with the U.S. and Israeli sides in which the USSR explained the attempt to settle Jews in the occupied territories as a serious step that will have a negative effect on peace plans and the Arab states' interests.

He added: Regarding this, the Soviet Government has lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council, which currently is chaired by the Cuban representative. He said our view on this issue is to stress the Geneva Convention remains valid regarding the Palestinian inhabitants and the occupied Arab territories, and to call on the Israeli leadership to stop any measures to settle Jews in these territories.

The ambassador stressed that by submitting this issue to the UN Security Council, we do not have bad intentions or seek confrontation or arguments. He said: Our objective is to urge the UN Security Council to adopt a common stand toward the difficult situation that has resulted from the Israeli measures. He added: We hope the United States will show interest in this issue, and that it will not oppose adoption of a decisive resolution regarding this.

The ambassador said: We know full well Israel's actions against the Palestinian people are rejected by the humanitarian conscience and by international laws, and that the Israeli measures conflict with all peace agreements, particularly the 1949 Geneva Convention on preventing settlement in occupied territories by any inhabitants other than those territories' native citizens.

Concluding, the ambassador said: This issue emphasizes the USSR's concern and its interest in the Palestine question and in seeking to achieve peace in the world.

KUNA Deplores Soviet Position on Emigration

LD1802193890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0839 GMT
18 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 18 (KUNA)—“The slap of a friend has been harmer [as received] to the self because it touched pericardium of hearts full of love and appreciation for the Soviets,” Kuwait news agency said in an analysis on the conversal issue of Soviet Jews emigration to Israel.

"Therefore," the analysis stressed, "reconsideration of the decision opening the gate before Soviet Jews emigration... might help speed up healing the Arab wound which seems to be deep in spirits."

It emphasized that the Soviets must understand that "there is no other interpretation for the emigration of Soviet Jews at this delicate crossroad except to say that it is a new powerful aggression feeding the war machine of the Zionist enemy and supporting countries."

"Regardless of official Soviet statements that the emigrants have no right to resettle in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the 1948 Arab occupied lands are no longer able to take in new emigrants, not to mention that these lands are Arab Palestinian lands recognized in many socialist documents and books."

"Even if the emigrants remained for months far away from the West Bank and the Strip, they will, after a while, become Israeli citizens the Soviet Union has no mandate over if they move to the Bank and the Strip," the analysis asserted.

While lauding the Soviet Government's previous stands toward the Arab world and the Palestinian question, the analysis underlined that the Arab world is "confident that the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Soviet leadership will not [word indistinct] to make the Palestinian people pay in blood for the cost of the new policy of perestroika and glasnost because they never were a cause in errors committed inside the friendly country."

"Was the Marxist understanding for the Jewish question wrong, therefore entailing a review? Or were Soviet stands against Zionism as a colonial, expansionist and racist movement mistaken, therefore calling for a human support?" wondered the analysis, saying if the Soviet Union is really convinced of the measure it took recently, it must have been in a "coma" during the past 42 years.

The Arab Palestinian people can not deny the right of freedom to any people within defined and secure borders internationally recognized, the analysis said, "but when a group of people enjoy freedoms on the expense of the rights of others, the question becomes totally different and can be described as a direct aggression on others."

The analysis pointed out that the Soviet decision was made at "a decisive moment of the history" as it followed two years of a strong Palestinian intifada which changed many views at the international level and won many friends.

The decision also came in the midst of a semi-international consensus on the necessity to hold an international conference and establish a Palestinian independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the analysis added.

"Even inside the Zionist entity," the analysis continued, "supporters of a dialogue with the PLO and recognition

of Palestinian legitimate rights are growing to the extent of arousing the concern of the rulers of Tel Aviv."

The analysis also pointed to the fact the United States changed its laws and regulations concerning the emigration of Soviet Jews in order to indirectly force them to resettle in Israel instead of the old practice of choosing the United States or European countries.

"If the decision to allow Soviet Jews emigration to Israel was placed with news of the arrival of a Soviet ship carrying luggages of the emigrants to the port of Haifa in addition to the defamation campaign against Arabs during the events of Romania and other East European countries..., Arab countries are justified to take a cautious position and talk frankly and truthfully to their historic friends," the analysis asserted.

It further said that the Arabs still respect the nature of their relations with the Soviets, a relationship, it said, served by joint interests and never was based on the interest of one party.

The Arab countries, the analysis contented, during the peak of their liberation battles entered into close relations with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, rejecting all Western warnings.

"These Arab countries took the responsibility of improving the Soviet and socialist image not only in the Arab world but in African, Asian and Latin American Third World countries as well, the analysis recalled.

Oman

Foreign Affairs Official Departs for Tehran

JN2002150290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT
20 Feb 99

[Text] Muscat, 20 Feb (WAKH)—Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Muscat for Tehran this afternoon on an official visit of several days to Iran.

In a pre-departure statement, he told the OMANI NEWS AGENCY he is visiting Tehran in response to the invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. He said the visit falls within the realm of consultations between the Sultanate of Oman and Iran to promote joint action concerning all issues of concern to both countries.

He ruled out reports on the possibility of conducting an extraordinary Arab summit at this time of the year and added: "There will be a meeting for the Arab League Council on 10 March; the meeting will provide the opportunity for the Arab foreign ministers to discuss all main Arab developments before a decision is made on convening an Arab summit this year."

PDRY

Al-Dali on Unity, Jewish Emigration, U.S. Ties

JN1902213690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
18 Feb 90 p 11

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, PDRY, by Mahbub 'Ali in Aden; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ali] The implementation of unionist steps has gained momentum. Have plans been made to merge the Foreign Ministries [of South and North Yemen] soon with the aim of unifying Yemen's diplomatic representation abroad? Have any ideas been developed regarding this?

[Al-Dali] The merging of the two ministries and affiliated offices already has begun, and the important stage of unifying laws, regulations, and bylaws of the unity state's Foreign Ministry has been reached. When the specialized committee and its subcommittees finish their work on this, we will begin the actual unification of offices, as specified by the specialized committee that began work in Aden recently under the deputy foreign ministers.

According to the agreement between my colleague Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and myself, first, a unified law for the Foreign Ministry and the diplomatic and consular corps will be made. Second, a structure for the unity state's foreign ministry will be organized. Third, other laws and regulations organizing the administrative, financial, and working aspects will be issued. These are the matters the specialized committee is entrusted with settling before the merging of cadres within one foreign ministry. [passage omitted]

['Ali] To what extent will events in Eastern Europe affect the PDRY's policies and its current relations?

[Al-Dali] We regard events in some of the friendly socialist states, especially in Eastern Europe, as an internal affair. I believe these developments and events will not affect the future of relations between the PDRY and these states. We are following with interest developments in these states, however, because they definitely have foreign repercussions. We hope that these repercussions will be positive, however, not only for relations between the PDRY and these states, but also for relations with all brotherly Arab states. [passage omitted]

['Ali] In view of the friendly relations between the PDRY and the Soviet Union, have you decided to do something to urge the Soviet Union to halt the flow of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine?

[Al-Dali] Yes. I met this week with the Soviet ambassador in Aden and discussed Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. The Israeli leadership is trying to turn this emigration to its advantage to achieve the Zionist enemy's dream—which contravenes all human principles and rights, as well as international charters that condemn expelling Palestinians and replacing them with

Jews. The Israeli enemy is exploiting this issue to achieve its expansionist ambitions at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people's just cause. Meanwhile, the United States places restrictions on Soviet Jewish immigration to the United States to force them to go to Israel.

['Ali] There is information that Israel recently has begun to intensify its military presence in the southern area of the Red Sea.

[Al-Dali] We have read and heard statements on the Israeli military presence in the southern part of the Red Sea, especially in some islands. We have no confirmed information about this presence, however. If it proves correct, it certainly must be dealt with, because it would pose a threat not only to Yemen's safety and security, but to that of all states bordering the Red Sea and other Arab states.

['Ali] The call for a summit by states bordering the Red Sea was made some time ago to tackle the dangers of the Israeli military presence in the Red Sea. Do these new developments not require this call be renewed?

[Al-Dali] We have received no invitation regarding this. If it is objectively proven there is any Israeli military presence in the area, however, a summit meeting will be urgently required.

['Ali] Have diplomatic contacts between Aden and Washington, conducted through the two countries' UN permanent representatives, concerning an agreement to set a date for the resumption of diplomatic relations been completed?

[Al-Dali] We have not completed the dialogue between us and the United States on the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Our position on this issue has been clear from the beginning, or when the United States expressed a desire through Kuwait that the severed relations be restored. We said then we were not against the restoration of relations if the United States so wished. We accept no conditions for the restoration of these relations, however. Consequently, we reject accusations the PDRY supports terrorism.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Ministry Bans Visits to Thailand

LD2002231690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT
20 Feb 90

[Text] Riyadh, Jeddah, 20 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Ahmad bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy interior minister, announced that the Interior Ministry has issued instructions banning the travel of Saudi citizens to Thailand as a precaution to protect them and preserve their safety.

His royal highness said: We call for this measure to remain in force as long as the life of the Saudi citizen is threatened in Thailand.

In statements published today, Tuesday, in AL-JAZIRAH, AL-RIYADH, and AL-NADWAH newspapers, his royal highness linked the measure of banning the Saudi citizens from travelling to Thailand with clarifying the mystery of the assassination of three Saudi diplomats and the kidnapping of a Saudi businessman in the Thai capital.

His royal highness said: "Reversing the Interior Ministry's measure of not allowing the Saudi citizens to travel to Thailand depends on clarifying the mysteries of the crimes of the assassination and kidnapping operation."

His royal highness added: "We ask Saudis not travel at the moment to Thailand after the recent incidents of the assassination of three Saudi diplomats and the kidnapping of the Saudi businessman, Mr. Muhammad Ghanim al-Ruwayli, a few days ago in Bangkok."

Prince Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz added: "The fact that up to now the Thai government has not found the criminals who assassinated the Saudi diplomats, in addition to the fact that up to now it has not found those who kidnapped the Saudi businessman, make us more committed to this decision to preserve the safety of Saudi citizens and protect them."

His royal highness pointed out that the measures banning bringing workers from Thailand are still in force, and all the Thai workers who leave Saudi Arabia are given exit visas without reentry visas.

He said: "Reversing the ban on Saudi travel to Thailand and on entries from Thailand depends on the results of the Thai Government's investigations of the two cases of the assassination of the Saudi diplomats and the kidnapping of citizen Al-Ruwayli."

He pointed out that the Interior Ministry has not received any indication that the Thai Government has obtained information which will help in revealing the identities of those who committed the two crimes of assassination and kidnapping.

King Fahd Recieves Iraqi Oil Minister

LD2102101390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT
20 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 20 Feb (SPA)—The servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud recieved today at his office in al-Yamamah Palace his excellency the Iraqi oil minister, Isam 'Abd-al Rahim al-Jalabi, who conveyed to him a message from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Envoy Gives King Fahd Message From Bhutto

LD2002213790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The servant of the two holy places received in his office in the Royal Court in al-Yamamah Palace today His Excellency Iftikar Gilani, Pakistani minister of justice and special envoy of the Pakistani prime minister. The minister conveyed to the servant of the two holy places a message from the Pakistani prime minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Romanian Group Seeks To Promote Trade Ties

JN2002165290 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
19 Feb 90 p 2

[By Ahmad Muhsin in Abu Dhabi]

[Excerpt] A high-ranking Romanian economic official has said his country is willing to promote economic and trade ties with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Romania also is willing to attract investors from these countries, he added.

In a press statement following his talks at the Economy Ministry with Muhammad Jasim al-Mazki, the ministry's assistant under secretary, Romanian Deputy Trade Minister Kwan Emil Vasiliu [name and title as published] said his country has proposed two draft agreements, the first on commercial and economic cooperation, and the second on technical and scientific cooperation. The two drafts currently are under study and may be concluded in the near future, he added.

Vasiliu, heading the first official Romanian trade delegation to visit the UAE after the recent developments in that country, said Romania is in the process of promoting trade relations with the UAE, and it has decided to participate in Dubayy's international spring exhibition and in other future exhibitions in the UAE.

The Romanian official said his country will discuss with the authority of the Jabal 'Ali Free Zone the establishment of new Romanian industrial projects in the zone. He referred in particular to the current project to assemble Aro [as published] automobiles.

Vasiliu said his country is studying the possibility of importing oil from the UAE and other Gulf states following Moscow's decision to reduce oil supplies to Eastern European countries. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister To Meet With Saudi Counterpart*JN2002142390 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1300 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother, Saudi Arabian monarch King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, left Baghdad this morning for Riyadh.

The minister said in a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that he is taking a written message from leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. During a meeting with his counterpart the Saudi oil minister, the minister will discuss the situation of the oil markets, future speculations on these markets, and preparation for the OPEC Ministerial Committee meetings to be held in Vienna in the middle of next month.

Returns, Comments on Talks*JN2002210890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT
20 Feb 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother, Saudi Arabian monarch King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, returned to Baghdad this evening.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the oil minister said he delivered a written message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

He adds: Saudi Arabian monarch King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, conveyed his heartiest greetings and wishes to President Saddam Husayn.

The oil minister said that during his one-day visit, he met with Shaykh Hisham al-Nazir, Saudi minister of oil and mineral resources, within the context of coordination and continuous discussions between the two countries in the field of oil policies and the importance of stabilizing the world oil market and following up on its development in light of the implementation of the last OPEC agreement.

This meeting was also in preparation for the eighth OPEC Ministerial Committee meeting to be held in Vienna in mid-March, which includes the oil ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and Iran.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Conveys Message, Departs*JN1902124890 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT
19 Feb 89*

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 19, INA—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir left Baghdad this morning winding up a two-day visit to Iraq.

Prior to his departure, the Kuwait official told INA that he conveyed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from the emir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added that President Husayn asked to convey his excellency's greetings to the emir of Kuwait, wishing his highness good health and happiness and the Kuwait people further progress and prosperity.

Saddam Husayn Meets Heads of Diplomatic Missions*JN1902133490 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT
19 Feb 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 19, INA—President Saddam Husayn this morning held a meeting with heads of Iraqi diplomatic missions to a number of Asian, African and Latin American states.

During the three-hour meeting developments of the Non-Aligned Movement and its future horizons in the light of the political, economic and strategic variables were discussed. A number of current issues were also discussed.

President Saddam Husayn gave his directives to heads of Iraqi diplomatic mission working in the states of Asia, African and Latin America to work according to them in the way that would enhance Iraq's relations with Non-Aligned countries and different world states according to bases and principles of Iraq's foreign policy, its national interests and the high national interests of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister and Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim minister of culture and information.

Paper Urges Support for Jordan Against Israel*JN2002115390 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT
20 Feb 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 20, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad today called on the Arab countries to side with Jordan in the face of the Zionist threat, which is a hostile act against all Arab countries.

In a commentary, issued here today, the daily said that Jordan was subject to frequent Zionist pressures and threats under feeble pretexts for its national and responsible stances towards the Palestinian issue and for the role it played in drawing the world's attention to the dangers of the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, and above all for its support for Iraq against the Iranian aggression.

The daily added that the Zionist entity invented cross-border accidents alleging that infiltrators from Jordan entered to occupied Palestine, but nevertheless, facts proved that all these allegations were nothing but figments of its imagination to find a good reason to threaten Jordan.

The daily clarified that the Zionist enemy was really preparing for an act of aggression against Jordan.

AL-JUMHURIYAH warned that if the Zionist entity managed to occupy an Arab land, it would never withdraw, especially at a time the super powers started to submit the human support for "Israel" through the organized Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, East European countries, Iran and several African countries. [sentence as received]

The daily recalled the Zionist usurpation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syrian heights and parts of Lebanon, and its refusal to pull out, in defiance of all international resolutions.

The daily concluded its commentary by asking the Arab countries to rise to a man to keep the Jordanian land, sovereignty and people intact, since every one was well aware of the Zionist expansionist aims.

'Arab Nationals' To Participate in Joint Ventures
*JN2002141690 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT
20 Feb 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 20, INA—New regulations issued here recently permitted Arab nationals in the country to join Iraqis in business ventures.

According to an authorised source at the Ministry of Planning, after amending the regulations concerning Iraqi contractors, Arab nationals could jointly with Iraqis do business on the condition that their share do not exceed 49 percent of the ventures capital.

INMARSAT Communications Seminar Held
*JN1802141690 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT
18 Feb 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 18, INA—The International Network for Maritime and Satellite Communications (INMARSAT) recently held a scientific seminar in Baghdad which included a demonstration of its wide-range services in communications field.

The seminar which was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications was attended by experts from Post and Communications Department, Iraqi ground satellite establishments and the communications institute which is affiliated to the ministry.

The INMARSAT experts made presentations on the use of mobile and permanent communications stations which facilitate telephone, telegram and telex services to both near and remote areas.

The seminar also dealt with the role of INMARSAT network in detecting the exact area in which a plane, train, passenger ship or an oil tanker is sending a distress call through the use of satellite systems and ground stations.

During the seminar an experiment was made to communicate and send messages through mobile and permanent stations.

The INMARSAT has specialized agencies which comprise representatives of some 60 Arab and foreign countries including Iraq. The INMARSAT functions and presents services through and presents services through the use of a number of satellites including two operating over the Indian and Atlantic oceans. [sentence as received]

INMARSAT operates a system of satellites to provide worldwide a range of high quality mobile telecommunications' services for both commercial and distress and safety applications. INMARSAT began operations in 1982 and is headquartered in London. It is an international organization founded by the signatories of its member countries, each of which has an investment share based on its actual usage of the system.

As far as maritime services are concerned a mobile equipment is currently fitted on more than 9,000 ships and provides the crews of these vessels with access to a range of telecommunications services.

Regarding its aeronautical services, INMARSAT is putting into use a system which will offer a wide-range of satellite communications to the world aviation community and centres. Some of these services are already available on a limited pre-operational basis. However a global operation of the system is scheduled for 1990.

The INMARSAT is working toward a broad range of telecommunications services in the future for passenger correspondence and airline operations.

Arens To Meet Baker in Washington 23 Feb*TA2002172390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will meet with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on Friday, 23 February. This was reported to our political correspondent a short while ago by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem. The meeting will take place in the framework of the continuing contacts to further the peace process.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will meet tomorrow morning with Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin for a discussion preparatory to Arens' meeting with Baker in Washington. Our correspondent reports the Alignment leaders insist Foreign Minister Arens has no right to give Baker negative responses on the issues of including deportees and Arabs from East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation.

New Appointments in Wake of Sharon Resignation*TA2002171490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1700 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office about an hour ago officially announced the following appointments following the resignation of Minister Ari'el Sharon: Knesset Member David Magen will be appointed minister without portfolio, Minister Moshe Nisim has been given the industry and trade portfolio, and Minister Moshe Qatzav will be added to the Inner Cabinet.

It was reported from the Prime Minister's Office that Shamir decided on the appointments through his authority and the vast majority he enjoys among Likud Central Committee members. In this respect, Shamir said, the appointees are professional; these are the best men and the ones best suited for their jobs.

Shamir's Prospects After Sharon's Resignation*TA2102115090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
21 Feb 90 p A1*

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Shamir's Declaration of War"]

[Text] In appointing three strong personalities to the Cabinet, Yitzhaq Shamir declared war to the bitter end against the constraints camp. The appointment of David Magen, Moshe Nisim, and Moshe Qatzav is an anathema to the three members of the constraints camp: David Levi, Ari'el Sharon, and Yitzhaq Moda'i. The chief loser is Levi, who after Sharon's resignation, held the keys to Likud unity, but whose hasty acceptance of an invitation to two meetings with Shamir deprived him of that advantage.

In announcing the appointments, Shamir led the Likud into instability, launched a cycle of crises, and completely lost Levi's trust.

What is the predicament of the groups contending within the Likud? —The princes [Ehud Olmert, Dan Meridor, and Binyamin Begin] scored an achievement. For a year they have been prodding Shamir to assault the constraints camp. His announcement yesterday signaled his bowing to their wishes. —Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i will rush to iron out their differences. They will meet tomorrow already. Within a short time, they will resume their attacks on the prime minister. —Magen's success in the Likud pits him against David Levi as the spearhead who is to garner the support of the development towns. Nisim has a double duty: To erase Sharon's impact and curtail his hold and influence on the economy; and to face up to Peres. Qatzav will bolster Shamir's political line in the Inner Cabinet. —One should not rush to administer the last rites to Levi. He so far has accepted every call from Shamir and did not declare war. If he persists in his struggle, he stands a chance. The Moda'i five [the five seceding Knesset members who announced the establishment of a separate faction within the Likud on 19 February] stand slim chances of obtaining national funds within the framework of the party financing arrangements. The group still cannot really threaten Shamir, but also cannot survive outside the Likud. Yet if the five insist on being an independent faction, the Likud will be reduced to the status of the Knesset's second largest faction. —If Shamir fails to crush the constraints camp soon, his position will weaken. Ostensibly, only his rivals' situation worsened, but in effect, his dependence on the hawks in his camp increased. —Peres will step up his activity toward establishing an Alignment-led government, despite Rabin's distaste for it. —One element remains stationary: Shamir depends on Baker's political moves.

U.S. Human Rights Report Seen as 'Limited'*TA2102114290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 21 Feb 90*

[Excerpts] The annual U.S. State Department report on human rights is due to be made public later today. A preliminary review shows that the report expresses deep concern about the situation in the territories.

In an initial reaction from Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry says that the report does not take into account the source of the violence. This report from Mark Weiss: [passage omitted]

The Israeli Embassy in Washington, reacting to the report, said that the intifadah makes it difficult for Israel as a democracy, and any democratic would react in a similar way, if it faced disturbances, murder, and terrorism.

Here in Israel, Moshe Raviv, the deputy director general for information at the Foreign Ministry, criticized the report as limited and said it failed to take into account the whole political situation. Raviv said everything Israel does is in response to Arab violence. He said Israel behaves with restraint and within the framework of the law. Soldiers operate under very strict orders.

Raviv also said the fact must be emphasized that the growing number of casualties in the territories are murders committed by local residents against fellow Palestinians.

[In a similar report at 1100 GMT on 21 February, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew quotes Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, as having said although the report "is critical, as every such report by nature would be, the criticism" is "not too harsh. All in all, there are some slight factual errors, for example regarding "the number of casualties, or the number of soldiers and civilians who were tried, or a remark regarding detentions and the allegations that the individuals were rendered incommunicado—which is not sufficiently accurate." The report, says Strassnoff, "brings facts, most of which I accept as correct, but which are nonetheless not new to us. It does not draw conclusions, make recommendations, or pass harsh judgment on Israel. I think it is possible to say our situation, in light of the report—both in comparison with previous reports that have been issued recently, and in comparison with other countries mentioned in the current report—definitely is good."]

Further Reaction to Iraqi-Jordanian Squadron

Rabin 'Glad' About Disclaimer

TA2102110190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The defense minister has expressed satisfaction with remarks by Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran, according to which there is no decision to set up a joint squadron with Iraq, and that the squadron does not yet exist. The defense minister was addressing the Knesset plenum this morning. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar brings some of the remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] Yesterday I said in public Israel will not remain indifferent to the use of Jordan's territory by Iraqi military elements. I am glad to hear Jordanian papers today carry reports of an announcement by the Jordanian prime minister saying no plans for the establishment of the brigade exist, and that there is no decision yet regarding the squadron. I suggest, however, that we treat these remarks with a few question marks on the side. I believe what I have said reflects our outlook and our conduct. [end recording]

Rabin: Cooperation 'Known'

TA2102115390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 21 Feb pp 1, 10

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee yesterday that Israel has known for months about plans for Iraqi-Jordanian military cooperation, Knesset sources told The Jerusalem Post. [passage omitted]

The sources said Rabin told the committee: "I am interested in the Hashemite regime maintaining itself because I know the alternatives—either a PLO state or a PLO state along with extreme Islamic elements."

Jordan is also the key to a peace settlement with the Palestinians, he said. Rabin insisted that the Islamic Jihad was responsible for the bus massacre early this month in Egypt, thereby dismissing British press reports that the "Egyptian Revolution" linked to the son of former president Abd-al-Nasir, was responsible. He also said he expected some radical pro-Syrian Palestinian groups to step up terror attacks if the peace process moved forward.

Rabin said the majority of murdered "collaborators" in the West Bank were not linked to Israeli intelligence.

The defence minister complained that Israeli deterrence against terrorist attacks in the territories had been eroded by the High Court of Justice ruling last year that the IDF [Israel Defence Forces] cannot deport or demolish homes before the appeal process is exhausted.

Cooperation Seen as 'Threat'

TA2002131690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
20 Feb 90 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Red Line in Jordan"]

[Text] Does Jordanian-Iraqi military cooperation pose a threat to Israel? The answer is an unequivocal yes. If King Husayn allows the Iraqi Army, considered the largest, strongest, and most experienced Arab army, to use Jordanian territory to deploy along the border with Israel, the military threat posed to us significantly would increase. Such a development would change the strategic deployment along our borders and immediately would affect the military balance between Israel and the eastern front in particular and with all fronts in general.

We were worried, too, when an Iraqi division was deployed in northern Jordan for two years after the Six-Day War. Things have changed since then. The Iraqi Army grew significantly and acquired more mobility and armor; its firepower grew, and it acquired a great deal of experience in the Gulf war. It therefore poses a far more serious threat. King Husayn is aware of Israel's sensitivity on this matter, as is Washington.

Israel can do nothing to terminate military cooperation between Jordan and Iraq, certainly not if what is at stake is military cooperation of a defensive nature. But there is no reason in the world, except for aggressive intentions, why the Iraqi Army should be stationed on Jordanian territory along Israel's border. Such a move spells trouble, and Israel must strive to prevent it by making it plain to Husayn there is an Israeli red line he will not be allowed to cross.

The question of military cooperation between Jordan and Iraq is not new, and has arisen this time in the wake

of reports about the establishment of a joint Iraqi-Jordanian squadron. In its current economic situation, Jordan certainly could cut its expenses if some of its pilots—those flying Mirage F-1's, for example—were to train with Iraqi pilots. As far as we are concerned, however, it is not a question of the type of planes or a cut in expenses, but primarily of where this "joint squadron" will be stationed. If the squadron is established to camouflage the deployment of an Iraqi air presence in Jordan, Israel must regard it as a provocation and a threat to its security. This threat would persist even if the Jordanians and the Iraqis were to deploy their planes alternately in Jordan and Iraq. Military cooperation is not limited to the air sphere, although this is the most conspicuous area. It also is evident in information exchanges, sharing the lessons learned in the Iraq-Iran war, visits by senior Iraqi staff officers to Jordan, military patrols along the border with Israel, and efforts to cut the red tape concerning joint military activities.

The Arab side has its own explanations for the move, and Israel had better examine them before reaching any categorical conclusions. Obviously, through this military cooperation, Iraq wants to attain better aerial early warning vis-a-vis Israel. Jordanian radars—or Iraqi ones, if installed in Jordan—could supply such early warning and intelligence data. Jordan probably has been providing such services to Iraq ever since the Israeli strike on the nuclear reactor.

There is some defensive rationale in this argument. But if we add the radars to the Jordan-based Iraqi jet fighters that conduct reconnaissance and surveillance flights along the border with Israel, we come up with a potential offensive threat against us.

Husayn has been dragged into this military cooperation, apparently due to Iraqi pressure. The king was looking for a military backup to tackle both Syria and Israel, and found it in Iraq. He is troubled by the increasing call in Israel to turn Jordan into Palestine. He is afraid such an Israeli plan exists, and that the Palestinians—whose rebellion Israel has had a hard time crushing—may be pushed out of the territories to Jordan. But there is a fine line which, if crossed by the king, Israel would regard as a move from a defensive to an offensive deployment. That fine line would consist of giving permission to Iraqi air or ground forces to deploy against Israel on Jordanian soil. The king probably knows the dangers that would come his way in such a situation, both from his Arab partners and from Israel. Those in Israel who see Husayn as a partner in a future peace process are worried, more than Sharon's followers are, that the king might make a mistake. Those who want Jordan to become Palestine are eagerly awaiting Husayn's errors.

Regarding the peace process, there is another lesson to be drawn from this cooperation. Once again we see we cannot examine security arrangements on our eastern border only from the narrow angle of what happens in the West Bank; the Jordanian kingdom in the East Bank must also be taken into consideration. When it comes to

comprehensive security arrangements, one cannot treat this territory as two separate areas, but as a single military area encompassing Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. In the future, when security arrangements are discussed in the framework of the peace accords, we will have to give some thought not just to the demilitarization of the West Bank, but also to preventing foreign army troops from deploying in Jordan.

\$2.5 Million Profit on Oil Deal With Iran

*TA2102110590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 21 Feb 90*

[Text] Israel has made a profit of \$2.5 million from an oil deal with Iran. This became apparent this morning from the remarks made by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal in the Knesset plenum. Shahal was replying to a query by Knesset Member Ari'el Weinstein regarding an ABC report on this issue.

The energy and infrastructure minister said he will not confirm the report, because Israel does not reveal its oil purchase sources. If the question pertains to a shipment mentioned in the U.S. television report, it is true Israel made the alleged profit, which will be transferred soon to the Treasury.

Our Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar reports the money was made in a brokerage deal in which the shipment, which came from Iran according to the ABC report, was purchased and subsequently sold abroad at a higher price.

Peres Urges 'Supreme Effort' To Avert Sanctions

*TA2102075190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 21 Feb 90*

[Report on interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Galya Marom; on 20 February in Tel Aviv—recorded]

[Text] Vice prime minister Shim'on Peres said last night any action taken by the European Parliament must stem from economic, rather than political considerations. Minister Peres was referring to the intention of the EC foreign ministers, now gathered in Dublin, to impose economic sanctions on Israel.

[Begin Peres recording] We must do everything to avert this development. We must remind the EC they always have told us their considerations are economic, not political, and that politics and economy should not be mixed. At this stage, a supreme effort must be made to make sure this thing does not happen. [end recording]

Shim'on Peres attended a ceremony in which he congratulated the recipients of the Industrialists Associations' awards for marketing: Fibronics Company, Aircraft Industries, Milit, and Iscar, which won the first prize. In his address, Minister Peres cautioned against focusing on the EC, saying Israel should rather focus on developing resources in our region.

[Begin Peres recording] I am somewhat worried about the fact all our hopes are centered around the EC. We will find competing with Europe very difficult. Europe has a very full agenda, in addition to the fact it now is undergoing a process of transit from economic to political unification. It furthermore has changed the priority order of its debates. [end recording]

Minister Peres added the problem of transporting goods from Israel to Europe always will exist, particularly now that transportation inside Europe greatly has improved.

Arens Visits FRG, Meets Foreign Minister
WA2002182890

For Jerusalem Radio and FRG reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to the FRG, including his meeting with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, see the FRG section of the 20 February West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Army Sources Reject Human Rights Group Report
TA2002195990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] On the eve of the publication of the State Department's report on human rights, the Palestinian human rights body, al-Haq, came out with its own accusation of Israel. Israel is charged with torturing detainees and submitting individuals to collective punishment for the purpose of quashing the intifadah. Al-Haq today conducted a news conference in East Jerusalem, during which it presented its annual report.

The report mentioned several types of torture applied to political detainees, such as electrical shock, burning, beating feet, the painful squeezing of testicles, withholding food, and preventing detainees from sleeping. It also was reported that last year the number of security detainees increased by 40 percent.

Official Army sources this evening rejected al-Haq's accusations, describing them as unfounded and lacking any basis. The communique issued by these sources states Israel Defense Forces operations in the territories are conducted according to international law and are subject to Supreme Court scrutiny. The sources added al-Haq is known for its tendentious and biased position. Its negative report therefore comes as no surprise.

Shamir: Shin Bet Not Wiretapping Telephones
TA2002171790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The Shin Bet does not wiretap telephone calls made by Israeli politicians. The prime minister reported this in response to a query by Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid.

The query came in the wake of statements made by 'Ezer Weizman in which he intimated the Shin Bet may have

bugged his telephone. Minister Roni Milo, who conveyed the prime minister's response to MK Sarid, said the Shin Bet did not wiretap Weizman's or Sarid's telephones.

8,000 Immigrants Arrive in First 6 Weeks of Year
TA1802105490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Some 8,000 Soviet immigrants arrived here in the first six weeks of 1990, compared to 12,800 for all of last year. Some 3,650 immigrants, of whom 3,200 came from the USSR, have arrived by air since the start of February. This data was gathered at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Greeks Invited To Bid on Transporting Immigrants
JN1702125690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 15 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned Israel has invited five major Greek maritime transport companies to bid on transportation of about 100,000 Soviet Jewish emigrants this year from Black Sea ports to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Informed diplomatic sources in Athens revealed to AL-ITTIHAD the Israeli Consulate in Athens is contacting Greek maritime transport companies, and an agreement is expected to be reached with one or more of these companies this week after the consulate asked them to expedite their bids.

Paper Updates Palestinian Fatalities 21 February
TA2102110290 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 21 Feb 90 p 5

[By Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 21 February, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 560 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 714.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 865 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

- 633 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
- 83 fatalities from asphyxiation.
- 57 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
- 92 fatalities from other causes.

Naval Blockade on Gaza Strip; Curfew in Rafah
TA2102064490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] This morning the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a naval blockade on the Gaza Strip, preventing fishermen from embarking. The blockade was imposed

last night after several gunshots were fired at an IDF patrol in the vicinity of Bayt Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports the security forces are probing a possible connection between these shots and the attack in Gaza's al-Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood, in which two reservists two months ago were ambushed and murdered.

In addition, a curfew was imposed this morning on Rafah, where disturbances are feared in the wake of the death of a 15-year-old boy who died yesterday in Tel Hashomer Hospital of wounds suffered at the beginning of this week.

Another car—the 40th since the beginning of 1990—was set on fire in Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports some time ago, a Subaru belonging to a car rental company was set on fire while parked on Hayevanim Street in East Jerusalem, opposite a Jerusalem Municipality office.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 21 February reports: "Last night, the security forces sealed the homes of two Nabulus residents who are members of strike forces. Our correspondent Arye Gus

reports they are suspected of having violently assaulted local residents they suspected of assisting the authorities."]

Factory Develops Complex Night-Vision Camera

*TA1802150490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 18 Feb 90 p 22*

[By Avraham Dishon]

[Excerpt] The Oril factory in Qatzrin, which develops night-vision systems for military and civilian purposes, recently has developed a special video camera that can be carried on aircraft. The camera can take pictures of ground-level objects in the dark.

The pictures either can be kept inside cassettes or transmitted real time to ground stations located at a distance.

The Oril factory employs 40 workers, and the volume of its sales in 1989 was approximately \$4 million. The factory's new development constitutes a revolution in the field of night vision and is expected to greatly increase the factory's sales, especially to foreign bodies. [passage omitted]

Badran Denies Joint Air Squadron Formed

JN2102102690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—QNA—Mudar Badran, prime minister and defense minister, has stressed Jordan's need to train a number of pilots so they can be employed in the Jordanian Air Force

He said Jordanian pilots are trained by their Iraqi brothers, and this does not mean a joint Iraqi-Jordanian squadron has been formed. He accused Israel of exploiting this subject.

Regarding the formation of an Arab corps, proposed by His Majesty King Husayn to be a deterrent Arab force, Mudar Badran stated to the press yesterday nothing had been done regarding this.

Al-Qasim Stresses 'Urgent Need' for Arab Summit

JN1702172090 Amman Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, has warned of dangerous implications of Soviet Jewish migration to the occupied Arab territories.

In an interview published by the Lebanese AL-HAYAH newspaper today, Mr. al-Qasim called for a unified Arab stance on this issue, which threatens all peace prospects. He stressed the urgent need to conduct an Arab summit to discuss this question, together with the developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict; the situation on no war no peace between Iraq and Iran; the Lebanese crisis; hostile designs to divert Arab waters; and world changes.

Mr. al-Qasim said that Jordan, under his majesty the king, is now holding consultations on the possibility of holding a summit. He affirmed Jordan's support of the PLO's right to choose its representatives.

Mr. al-Qasim also underlined Jordan's refusal of any partial solutions of the Arab-Israeli dispute. He also called for a comprehensive settlement through an international peace conference.

PLO Envoy on 'Arafat Visit, Central Council

JN1902191690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Amman before the end of this month to find a formula for joint action on the influx of Jews to Israel and the convocation of the UN Security Council. This was stated to our radio by Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

'Abd-al-Rahim said 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, which comes at the official invitation of King Husayn, will take place immediately after the Arab Cooperation Council

summit, scheduled for 24 and 25 February. The Palestinian ambassador said the foreign ministers of the eight-member arab committee for supporting the intifadah should participate in the UN Security Council in view of the danger the Jewish emigration poses to pan-Arab security.

'Abd-al-Rahim denied the PLO officially had asked the Jordanian Government to host the PLO Central Council's meetings in Amman, saying the council is more likely to meet in Baghdad next month as usual. He said the PLO had asked to conduct the Palestine National Fund meetings in Amman shortly, and this request was approved.

Kuwaiti Minister Meets With Prime Minister

JN2002124190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office today Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, members of the delegation accompanying the Kuwaiti official, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman attended.

The meeting covered the latest developments in the Arab arena and means to strengthen Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

Holds Talks, Departs

JN2002211890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office at noon today Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, members of the accompanying delegation, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman attended. Our correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab has more details:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] During the meeting the two sides discussed relations and the current situation in the Arab region. Their viewpoints were identical on issues, especially regarding the dangers resulting from the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Palestine, since these dangers affect all Arab countries, not just one specific country. The Kuwaiti minister affirmed Kuwait's understanding of the need to support Jordan, which stands on the longest confrontation border with the Zionist enemy. He also expressed his appreciation for the Jordanian role in strengthening collective Arab action.

The prime minister expressed Jordan's appreciation for the positive stands of sisterly Kuwait toward Jordan.

The sides underscored the need to continue supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people by convening an international peace conference based on UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338 and in harmony with the Arab consensus achieved during the

Algiers and Casablanca summits. The two sides also affirmed the need to join forces aimed at turning the state of no war no peace between Iraq and Iran into a lasting peace.

The talks also dealt with the Lebanese crisis and the need to take advantage of the opportunity of the cease-fire in Beirut to embark on a national Lebanese dialogue to end the crisis from which all the fraternal Lebanese have suffered.

In a statement to journalists, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said:

[Al-Ahmad] In fact, my meeting with his majesty the king was good. I had the honor of meeting with his majesty. We discussed relations between the two countries and international changes. I then met with my brother the foreign minister. Now, at the end of this tour, I have just met with the prime minister and completed the talks we conducted with his majesty the king regarding bilateral relations and the Arab situation in general, as well as the international changes in general.

[Dhiyab] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad met earlier today with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad left Amman this evening at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan. He was seen off at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, the Kuwaiti ambassador, and the Kuwaiti Embassy staff. [end recording]

Jordanian-PLO Panel on Jewish Immigration JN2002215290

[Editorial report] Amman Television Service in Arabic at 1945 GMT on 20 February broadcasts a recording of the "Face the Press" program in which Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Occupied Homeland Department, Tahir al-Masri, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Jordanian House of Representatives, and Fali al-Tawil, director of the Research and Studies Department at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, discuss the subject of Soviet Jewish immigration. The three guests answer questions by local journalists Tariq Masarwah, Sultan al-Hattab, and Mu'nis al-Razzaz.

Al-Tawil notes the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration always has been a priority issue in U.S. policy and relations with the Soviet Union. He says the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union can be viewed as one of the results of Gorbachev's "balance of interests" policy. But the Arabs, in their handling of the problem, should make it clear what is required is not the balance of interests, but the balance of legitimate interests. Al-Tawil believes only between 500,000 and 750,000 Soviet Jews might be willing to depart the Soviet Union.

Muhammad Milhim says the immigration bolsters the extremist position of the Likud party and helps obstruct attempts to reach a just peace in the region. He refers to

a new plan proposed by Ari'el Sharon and described it as expansionist and aiming at creating Greater Israel. Referring to Arab attempts to prevent the emigration, Milhim says: "Currently, the right-wing Zionist establishment ruling Israel cannot be influenced by the currently weak Labor Party or by the peace camp in Israel. This is especially true since the Arabs failed to make the United States budge from its position, which is 100 percent biased toward Israel; the Arabs also failed to affect the position of the Soviet friends, who were approached by a Palestinian delegation and by the Arab ambassador's delegation, and who received memorandums from all Arab organizations and bodies. All this did not affect the Soviet Union and its inclination toward unleashing the freedom of emigration."

Milhim also refers to Israel's delaying tactics and attempts to deflect the Palestinian peace initiative. He stresses preoccupation with the issue of immigration should not distract Arabs from their duty to achieve peace and regain Palestinian rights. He calls on frontline states—Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Palestine—to join forces to face up to the new challenge.

Tahir al-Masri highlights the threat of immigration not only to the occupied territories, but to the entire Arab nation. He predicts Israel's lust for expansion will be the main characteristic of the Israeli policy in the upcoming stage. He talks about the need for collective Arab efforts to face up to the new threat. But regarding Jordan, which faces the biggest danger, it should support the intifadah, which is Jordan's first defense line, and play a leading role in urging all Arabs to confront the problem. Al-Masri in particular stresses the importance of maintaining national unity in Jordan and rendering the democratic experience a success.

Daily Hopes for Saudi Support Against 'Plot'

JN2102093290 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
21 Feb 90 Second Edition pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Jordan Is the Touchstone for Arab Victory or Loss of Their Rights"]

[Text] No one can argue this Arab sanctuary is targeted in an unprecedented manner by Zionist plans to establish "Greater Israel."

Voices warning of the dangers of the plot are numerous, as are those supporting this sanctuary's position. But neither warnings nor support can repulse plots or make them backfire on the aggressors. We hope, however, that through its awareness of the dangers surrounding Jordan and its honorable conduct, Saudi Arabia will set an example and precedent for real Arab action to bolster Jordan's steadfastness and preserve the Arabs' existence, dignity, and borders.

We say this while believing Israel never has thought of bringing about a just and lasting peace in the region. On the contrary, it exploited every opportunity provided by the various peace initiatives to build up its aggressive

force and take new expansionist and colonialist steps in neighboring Arab countries' territories while we were panting after the desired peace.

Today we are facing the waves of a large-scale Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel, and all we ask is a guarantee they will not be allowed to settle in the occupied Arab territories!

This large number of Jewish immigrants has encouraged Shamir to announce the need for "Greater Israel" while the international and Arab circumstances allow such a trend.

What have we, the Arabs, done to confront this danger? Nothing but complaining here and there. We still hope, moreover, that the international moves will be in our favor.

Jordan will remain the rock of steadfastness in the face of the big conspiracy. The Jordanian people should remain loyal to the message of the Great Arab Revolt and the Palestinian question, the factors of its survival that will continue despite the plotters.

Paper Urges U.S. Moves Against Israeli Policies

JN2002122090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
20 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Time for American Action, Now"]

[Text] The decision of the U.S. to abstain Friday on a resolution submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on human rights calling on Israel not to settle Soviet Jews in "Palestinian and Arab" territories casts a shadow on Washington's intentions on the entire Arab-Israeli conflicts. Not that the lonely U.S. vote in the commission changed anything as far as the commission's resolution was concerned. What is disturbing is the implications of that U.S. stance on the occupied territories and what it would mean when the United Nations Security Council convenes Wednesday to debate the entire issue of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel. If in fact there is an erosion in the American position on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the issue of Israeli settlements on the West Bank, then the Arab World has an entirely new situation that it must deal with, whatever the consequences. The U.S. abstention in the U.N. vote has indeed raised important questions, some of which were asked by His Majesty King Husayn in his interview with the WASHINGTON POST two days ago. Are there doubts in the mind of the U.S. government that the occupied territories are not Israeli territories and that Israel cannot populate them at will with newly-arrived immigrants from the Soviet Union or anywhere else for that matter?

There is little room for the U.S. to evade the question since, regardless of what Israel says publicly, it is clear that it is not only a question of "absorbing the world Jews into Israel" but also of long-term dangers posed to the Palestinians, Jordan and the Arab World. If the U.S. is indeed sincere in its avowed intention to see a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, then

the time is to act now to remove the Israeli-imposed hurdles in the way to such a goal. Until and unless such a move materialises out of Washington, American intentions will remain suspect.

Paper Lauds Thatcher Statements on Immigration

JN2002103090 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
20 Feb 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Palestinian Human Rights"]

[Text] We hope what British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher said has reached all those concerned about human rights, interested in ethics and principles, and who are competent to shoulder their responsibilities toward peoples' legitimate rights.

Mrs. Thatcher declared before the Board of Deputies of British Jews that any attempt or trend to save one human life at the expense of another is totally ridiculous and unjust. She also said any Israeli move aimed to settle the Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territory will constitute a real offense against all the efforts made in the field of human rights to apply, in practice, every man's right to choose his place of residence, provided this is not at the expense of others on the soil of others' homelands, and by usurping their legitimate rights.

The stand taken by the British prime minister clearly is opposite to the one declared and practiced by the United States toward the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the Palestinian territories. It also reflects a policy we always hoped the EEC would pursue when dealing with the Middle East crisis and its core, the Palestine question; and with the principle which enjoys international unanimity and asserts land for peace is the formula that has to be adopted if a just settlement to that crisis is to be reached.

Europeans have remained captives to regretting their failure to rescue the Jews from Nazism. Atonement for this failure or forgetting that regret cannot be accomplished by standing idly by, watching what the Israeli entity is doing to the Palestinian Arab people. Since the Europeans are more concerned about the ethics and principles relating to human and peoples' rights, they always have been more fair in their policies toward the Middle East and left it to the United States to play the role it chose—to embrace and finance all kinds of Israeli aggression and expansionism.

None of the Arabs is demanding more than considering human rights an absolute noble value applying equally to Arabs as well as Jews. When human rights mean—as Washington thinks—that Jews can only achieve their rights by usurping the Palestinian people's rights, houses, and territories, however, then the matter becomes—just as Mrs. Thatcher has described it—totally ridiculous and unjust. It indeed is ridiculous and unjust as long as Israel and the United States explain human rights as meaning the Palestinian must be killed for the sake of the Jew, so he can settle in the Palestinian's house after he is thrown

out of it, and after he is uprooted and expelled either by force or through terrorism and threats of genocide.

Mrs. Thatcher's statements are praiseworthy, not only because they do justice to the Palestinian people in light of the threats facing them, but also because they reflect an adherence to ethics, principles, and values against Israeli, as well as American, policies and practices that ignore all those ethics, principles, and values.

Group Seeks Amnesty For All Political Prisoners

JN2002121090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
20 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Amman—A Public Freedoms Committee, which represents members of 12 professional associations, has urged the government to grant amnesty to 55 political prisoners and detainees it says are still held in prisons.

"The government is called upon to issue a comprehensive general amnesty for the remaining political prisoners and detainees without any exceptions immediately," Dr. Samir Yasin, deputy chairman of the Public Freedom's Committee at the Professional Associations complex, said Monday.

Yasin said his committee felt His Majesty King Husayn's decision to grant special pardon to 27 Jordanian and two Arab political prisoners, an Iraqi and Syrian, last week "was a shining example of His Majesty's concern for the Jordanian citizen's dignity."

He said that King's pardon was also another step on the way of "strengthening the march of democracy and eradicating all the traces of the past and opening a new page."

Yasin, however, said that the committee still expected a general amnesty to all political prisoners and called for cancelling "administrative detention laws."

Under the 1935 Defence Law passed during the British mandate period, the government can hold administrative detainees without trial.

According to Jordanian law, a special pardon, such as the one used last week, is granted by the King upon the recommendation of the Cabinet and does not erase the record of the crime from the citizen's files. A special pardon cannot be granted to detainees.

"These people granted a special pardon will never be able to run for municipal or parliamentary elections, nor can they obtain a good behaviour certificate from security departments which is a prerequisite for certain kinds of employment," Yasin explained.

On Thursday, King Husayn ordered the 29 political prisoners freed to mark the first anniversary of the Arab Cooperation Council, which groups Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt.

A general amnesty, according to Jordanian law, is granted by the executive authority, and is endorsed by

the King, and cancels the charges and sentences and erases their record. The Public Freedoms Committee is pressing the government for a general amnesty for the remaining political prisoners and detainees "as pledged by Prime Minister Mudar Badran during his vote of confidence address to the Lower House of Parliament," Yasin said.

Yasin said a recent study by his committee showed that the government still held 47 prisoners and eight detainees because of their affiliation with illegal political parties, illegal possession of arms or attempts to infiltrate into the Israeli-occupied territories.

The committee's study also indicated a few were convicted of more serious offences, including involvement in murder or attempted murder of political and military figures.

The Public Freedoms Committee also decided to set one day a week to receive complaints from the public during which at least two members of a sub-committee will be available to receive these complaints.

"As of next week, Saturdays have been set for receiving public complaints," Yasin said, adding that two members of the committee will be available from 3 p.m. till 6 p.m. at the Professional Unions Complex.

The 10-member committee will include: Veterinarian Mahdi al-Aqrabawi, geologist 'Awni al-Batayinah, lawyer Asma' Khadir, journalist 'Umar 'Abandah, pharmacist Sakha' Shammass, geologist 'Awni Fakhuri, lawyer Yolla Hadadin, lawyer Mazin Irshaydat and writer Nimr Sarhan.

Muslim Brotherhood-Government Relationship Viewed

JN2002144090 Amman AKHIR Khabar in Arabic
19 Feb 90 p 7

[First of three articles by Wafa 'Amr: "The Muslim Brotherhood From Within; Has the Brotherhood Footed Bills Accumulating Over the Years to Successive Governments?"]

[Excerpts] The relationship based on "coexistence" and "mutual recognition" binding the Muslim Brotherhood to the Jordanian Government has surfaced clearly in parliamentary elections conducted during the years. The Brotherhood was the only group allowed to launch open, public election campaigns. The Brotherhood thus enjoyed official support and acquired the semblance of legal status. In return, the Muslim Brotherhood footed the bills through its political positions, which most often supported the official Jordanian stance.

The question posed is the following: How did an Islamic movement whose platform is based on the application of Islamic shari'a and "fighting the West" manage to support a state that does not apply Islamic shari'a, a state whose laws most often are derived from the relics of the British mandate period, as a Brotherhood member wondered. Some analysts said the "implicitly concluded

alliance" between the Muslim Brotherhood and the successive Jordanian governments during the years caused the Muslim Brotherhood to lose popularity as an Islamic movement, as well as losing the trust of many Muslims. The success scored by the Muslim Brotherhood in parliamentary elections during the fifties and sixties thus was marginal and not to be compared in any way with the success it enjoyed in the 1989 elections. [passage omitted]

In an attempt to explain the Muslim Brotherhood's relationship with the Jordanian prime minister during the years, especially Mudar Badran during his current premiership and in the seventies, Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah, the Brotherhood's media spokesman during the 1989 elections, said: "The Muslim Brotherhood has its own way of dealing with all parties, regardless of figures or names." He added: "We support everyone who does well, whoever he may be, even if he were one of those opposing our views. Likewise, we are against wrongdoers, whoever they may be, even if they were to sympathize with the Brotherhood. Our opposition is not linked directly to specific names. We support everything that benefits the homeland and the citizen and does not run contrary to Islam. This is our way of dealing with all rulers." [passage omitted]

In light of the atmosphere of openness currently witnessed in Jordan and in view of the efforts to form political parties, a Brotherhood member said the Brotherhood will request a license for operating in Jordan. Abu-Ghanimah, however, denied any knowledge of such a thing, and added the Muslim Brotherhood already is operating. He went on to say its activities have been sanctioned by God.

Labor Minister Explains Foreign Labor Measures

*JN1802102190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
18 Feb 90 Second Edition, pp 1, 10*

["Exclusive" for SAWT AL-SHA'B by Therese Haddad in Amman]

[Text] Labor Minister Dr. Qasim 'Ubaydat has categorically denied there is a campaign afoot to expel foreign workers.

He said in a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B: We have not yet finished studying the needs of the local market in the various skills and sectors among foreign workers. We know the local market does not need more than 60,000 foreign workers of varying skills. The measures taken by the ministry aim to organize the local labor market, since work permits issued to foreign workers do not exceed 48,000.

Dr. 'Ubaydat explained there are many who evade labor laws and regulations, such as contractors; some of them start projects and contracts with foreign workers against a sum of money or monthly wage. These workers afterwards become merchants, marketing the people's basic foodstuffs and exploiting and controlling the citizenry. We will carry out large-scale searches to put an end to this type of situation and refer both parties to the courts.

Regarding the ministry's intervention in some unions, Dr. 'Ubaydat said: We go along with any legitimate request from the workers. We also support any unionist group.

We therefore support elections for all workers' unions so leaders emerge to take on the responsibility of defending the rights of the working classes, to truly help cut down on unemployment, and apply pressure on employers to hire local labor under acceptable human conditions, preserving the dignity of the Jordanian worker while retaining their own rights.

Regarding workers in land transportation and auto mechanics, we are giving them a chance until Monday, which is the period set to invite the general assembly of workers in land transportation and "drivers", to conduct elections. Another letter has been sent to the union on this subject for elections on the set date. We are waiting for a reply.

Regarding the bakery owners and their breaking the law, Dr. 'Ubaydat said in cases where bakery owners go on strike or break the law, they, as well as foreign workers who have broken the law, will be referred to the courts.

Pa
NC **Lebanese Delegation Arrives in East Beirut**20 2002172490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT
Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (MENA)—A high-level Palestinian immigration arrived in East Beirut yesterday and met immediately with General Michel 'Awn, a Palestinian partner said in Tunis today. The delegation was dispatched by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The Beirut source explained that the delegation's visit to East Beirut forms part of 'Arafat's effort to bring about a cease-fire in East Beirut, stop the bloodshed, and pave the way for a political solution ensuring the unity of Lebanon's people and territory.

The Beirut source added that the delegation will also meet with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja and other political figures.

'Ar
NC **'Arafat Reportedly Proposes Lebanese 'Initiative'**in 22102094890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Palestinian sources in Tunis said that 'Arafat has proposed a six-point initiative on Lebanon and that the Lebanese believes that disclosing its details at this time may weaken its chances of success. For this purpose, the sources added, 'Arafat has contacted the Soviet Union and the United States to rally the greatest possible international support for his initiative.

A Palestinian source in Tunis previously announced that a high-level Palestinian delegation arrived in East Beirut two days ago and met with General 'Awn. The sources Ja'ja said that the delegation would meet with Dr. Samir Ja'ja later.

BBC WaC said the Palestinian delegation is led by Zayd al-Hirawi, Fatah official in Lebanon, and includes two Fatah officers from the Fatah Movement. The radio cited al-Hirawi as saying that a cease-fire is the first step in 'Arafat's plan, which does not only seek to settle the Beirut dispute but also aims at contributing to a solution for the Lebanese problem.

De
NC **Deputies Authorize Al-Hirawi To Make Decision**in A2102100490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Deputy Rafiq Shahin has disclosed that the Lebanese deputies currently in Paris have authorized Mr. al-Hirawi to make any appropriate decision on the situation in the eastern area.

Deputy Shahin expressed concern over the French and Syrian positions toward the Lebanese crisis. He said in a statement that any victory in East Beirut that does not serve the legitimacy will be fruitless.

Chief of Staff: LF Not To Seek Syrian AssistanceNC1902070690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] A source close to the Lebanese Forces (LF) commander hopes the current truce will turn into a durable peace, stressing that all outstanding problems could be resolved through dialogue. We regret that our society had to pay such a high price to convince everyone that dialogue is the right way to solve the problems, the source added.

The source voiced willingness to start a calm and serious dialogue based on mutual respect, the preservation of political liberties, and the right of any faction or party to practice politics and to agree, oppose, or differ. The source called for the need to immediately withdraw all Army and LF forces from residential areas, streets, and public roads and to return them to the fronts; to restore normal life; and to discuss any pending matters calmly and in accordance with the fundamental clauses. Supervised by the mediation committee, this was the basis for a cease-fire agreement.

Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik, LF chief of staff, hopes that the current cease-fire will stand and will be the first step in the 1,000-mile-long journey. In an interview with French television, he said the current confrontation is sheer madness, and it is no wonder that the French public cannot understand it. He said when it becomes personal ambitions, anything is possible. Maj Gen Malik emphasized that the LF never wanted to remove 'Awn or replace the Lebanese Army, but wanted only to safeguard the resistance that has been working for 15 years to liberate Lebanon. Since there is no solution yet, he added, the resistance must stay, because without it the Lebanese issue could not be resolved. He added: A previous attempt was made in 14 February 1989 to abolish the LF. It was impossible this time also. I hope General 'Awn will change course and move toward peace, he added.

He denied that the LF will request assistance from Syria. He said the LF have been fighting for 15 years to liberate Lebanon, and therefore they are the least willing party to ask Syria a favor, particularly since they know the Syrians well and know the price they are asking, he added.

Maj Gen Malik regretted the unjustified incidents between two significant forces which, if they cooperated, could be a formidable force. He wondered how the Lebanese will face their friends abroad in light of these events.

Ja'ja' Comments on Cease-Fire; Calls For DialogueNC2002155390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja has expressed satisfaction with the firm cease-fire accord and the noticeable progress in the current consultations aimed at normalizing the situation in the free areas.

In a press statement, he declared the readiness of the Lebanese Forces to do anything it can to stop the cycle of violence and normalize the situation. He asserted that the Lebanese Forces are committed to the six principles on which the agreement was based.

Ja'ja' said: We are all losers in this destructive and unjustified war. He urged the mediation committee to pursue its efforts to resolve all outstanding problems. He also urged General 'Awn to pursue the path of dialogue. The consequences of a military option for our people and institutions have become evident to everyone, he said.

He stated that the people's homes, institutions, and property are not the proper place to prove the strength of this or that party. The clashes of the last three weeks, he added, have proved that it is impossible for either party to dominate the other, because both the Army and the Lebanese Forces have their own potentials. He went on: As we were strong in the war, we must have the courage to opt for peace. Let us make a peace of the strong. The use of force destroys society, while the peace of the strong enhances society and the cause.

'Awn Source on Call for Dialogue

NC1902132590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Excerpts] A source in the Ja'ja' gangs [the Lebanese Forces] has called for a dialogue with 'Awn's gangs, based on the preservation of political freedoms, and the right of any faction or party to practice politics and to agree, oppose, or differ. [passage omitted]

A source close to 'Awn's gangs commented on the Ja'ja' source's statement, saying this is not enough and the solution lies in the acceptance of participating in what he termed the 'Awn government and by unifying the rifles, not by talking about two rifles. He affirmed that there is no possibility of amending the six articles, which should constitute a final settlement.

Ja'ja' Rules Out Concessions to 'Awn

NC2002213090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Speaking to a BBC correspondent, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' asserted that he will not make any concessions to General 'Awn and that he will fight to protect East Beirut. He added that his forces will stand up and fight in defense of their positions.

Asked whether any political bargain had been struck resulting in the abandonment by the Lebanese Forces of their positions in East Beirut, Dr. Ja'ja' said it is Gen. 'Awn who should make the concessions.

Arab Committee Sources: No Cease-Fire Deadline

NC2002131090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Sources close to the mediation committee have denied any deadline or ultimatum for the cease-fire, describing West Beirut media reports on this issue as merely rumors. Regarding reports on firing at a car carrying the mediation committee members in Sin al-Fil yesterday, it has been confirmed that it was a casual incident and that the car itself was not the target. Shrapnel hit the car, but no committee members were hurt.

Failure To 'Bridge Gap' Noted

NC2102092690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The mediation committee is in a difficult position because of 'Awn's forces and the Lebanese Forces' military reinforcements in the eastern areas, and because of their conflicting conditions. The mediation committee is facing 'Awn's rejecting a proposal for balanced withdrawals and his insisting that the Lebanese Forces be turned into a political party. It is also facing Ja'ja's demand that 'Awn make concessions and his declaration that his forces will fight to defend their positions.

AFP cited a source close to the mediation committee as saying that 'Awn and Ja'ja' are at opposite ends, which threatens the collapse of the declared three-day truce, during which military and propaganda violations continue. It has been reported that both sides are massing forces on the various main fronts in al-Ashrafiyah, al-'Adliyah, al-Dawrah, al-Karantina, Sinn al-Fil, Upper al-Matn, and Kasrawan.

In view of this situation, the mediation committee has failed to bridge the gap between Ja'ja' and General 'Awn's logic. It has also failed to achieve an agreement between the two sides on the members of the proposed authority. This is contrary to reports that they have reached a final agreement on the six points and that they have started discussing the names of the members of this authority.

Citing a source close to Gen. 'Awn, AFP said that the mediation committee has not obtained a clear commitment from the Lebanese Forces regarding 'Awn's two principal demands: that the Lebanese Forces' military establishment merge with the Army and that the Lebanese Forces unequivocally denounce the al-Ta'if agreement.

AFP has also cited a source close to the mediation committee as having said that 'Awn considers that establishing peace in the eastern area requires, in the first phase, returning the Lebanese Forces to their barracks and placing them under his command. The source said that the Lebanese Forces regard this concession as one that deprives them of the independence they should have in view of their actual influence on the ground. The Lebanese Forces demand that a joint military operations room be established under the supervision of a committee that will include all the Christian political forces.

Citing observers, AFP says that the current truce is a little more than a temporary settlement and that both sides are preparing for another round of power struggle. In an interview with the BBC, Ja'ja' emphasized that he will not make any concessions to 'Awn, that he will fight to preserve East Beirut and that his forces will resist and fight to defend their positions.

Citizens Warned Against 'Suspicious' Objects

NC2002184090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Statement by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff]

[Text] Before withdrawing, the military units that were stationed in the Adma air base and surrounding areas left behind quantities of ammunition, weapons, and equipment rigged to explode if moved. Some of these items were hidden in the basements of houses and buildings. Teams from the Lebanese Forces engineering department are working to defuse them.

The Lebanese Forces General Staff warns the citizens against touching any suspicious object they may find in or around Adma. The citizens are requested to contact the nearest Lebanese Forces center upon finding any such object, so that engineering experts may be dispatched to defuse the devices. The citizens may also contact the social emergency room on 938418 or 938419.

AFP Casualty Toll for East Beirut Cited

NC2002133690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] According to AFP's latest casualty toll, 764 people have been killed and 2,187 wounded [in East Beirut fighting]. Our radio's exclusive information reveals that 'Awn's gangs in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Furn al-Shubbak areas are arresting civilian employees, including women, working in the Lebanese Forces' institutions, while Ja'ja's gangs in Kasrawan and Jubayl are harassing the families of Army officers and soldiers.

Israeli 'Mock Raids' in South 21 Feb Noted

NC2102132890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] At approximately 1000 today, Israeli military planes waged mock raids on Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps, drawing antiaircraft fire. A state of extreme alert was declared in the ranks of the Popular Army, the nationalist forces, and the Palestinian revolution forces.

Amal Accuses 'Mohtashemi Groups' of Shelling

NC2002211790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Statement issued by Amal Movement "security source" in south Lebanon on 20 February]

[Text] Mohtashami groups violently shelled the townships of Upper Humin, Jarju', and 'Anqun throughout today. Using 120-mm guns and 107 mm-rockets emplaced in Jabal Safi, they injured three citizens and caused considerable property damage. The Amal Movement holds Mohtashemi groups, who hide behind Islam while having absolutely nothing to do it, responsible for the bloodshed in Iqlim al-Tuffah, and at the same time it considers that the bloodshed and destruction taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah only serve the Zionist enemy and weaken the resistance and the south. The claim by Mohtashami's groups that they are safeguarding the resistance is a fabrication and a lie to cover up their continuous attacks against the south, its people, and the resistance, which has nothing to do with these groups that try to make the south their hostage like other hostages.

The Amal Movement finds itself compelled to defend the south and its people regardless of the price and sacrifices, because what counts is the survival of the south, its people, and the homeland.

Hizballah Says Amal Continuing Attacks

NC2102074490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] A Hizballah media source made the following statement:

The groups of Amal and Elie Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee] continue trying to perpetuate the tension in Iqlim al-Tuffah. They have continued to shell villages in the area with heavy artillery to prevent displaced citizens from returning to their homes.

'Ayn Qana was bombarded with 120-mm artillery yesterday morning, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Kafr Fila, and 'Ayn Qana were shelled with Grad rockets. This situation persisted until the evening.

We draw the public and our citizens' attention to these acts. The distorted reports of Birri's media are misleading our people.

Phalangist Leader Asks Arab League To Call Summit

JN1802130990 Amman Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Dr George Sa'adah, leader of the Phalangist Party and Lebanese Front chief, said today the only way out of the deadlock in East Beirut was the extension of the Lebanese legitimate authority above all Lebanese territory.

Dr Sa'adah, who has just returned from a visit to Riyadh, told Radio Jordan in a telephone interview that he discussed the Lebanese crisis with the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. He urged the three-nation Arab League committee on Lebanon to meet soon and issue a call for an Arab summit in implementation of

the Casablanca Arab summit which assigned the committee to mediate an end to the conflict in Lebanon.

Dr Sa'adah said that the Lebanese deputies currently in Paris will meet this evening to assess the results of his talks with the Saudi officials and the results of the talks which a Saudi official had in Beirut with President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Health Minister Urges Summit

NC1802180690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Health Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has called for convening an urgent extraordinary Arab summit conference to coordinate the Arab position with Lebanon to end the abnormal situation. In an interview today, he added that the Lebanese Government is holding contacts to convene this conference through the Foreign Ministry.

He said that the Lebanese deputies and ministers who are staying in Paris must express a clear view on the means to end the abnormal situation in East Beirut. He urged them to come to Lebanon for consultations so that any decision would be unanimous. He said that ambiguous and hesitant positions will lead Lebanon to destruction and perhaps partition.

Asked about the situation in East Beirut, al-Rasi said that there is no justification for what is taking place there, which is the result of the former army commander's lust for power and domination. He added that there is no alternative to the unified legitimate institutions, including the Lebanese Army, to defend the homeland and the citizens. He affirmed that the situation in the eastern area is an abnormal international, Arab, and Lebanese phenomenon and must end as soon as possible before Lebanon suffers further destruction and death.

Regarding the actual number of casualties from the conflict in East Beirut, al-Rasi said that the figures published in the press are much lower than the real figure. It is impossible to determine the casualty toll at present, but it is very large.

Regarding the appeals by the citizens and the calls on the legitimate authority to resolve the situation, he said that the government cannot resolve the situation in East Beirut militarily at present. Any military intervention requires a green light from all countries, particularly the United States. He said that the U.S. position is sound, and added that contacts are taking place to coordinate stands with the United States, which supports the legitimate authority represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the national accord government, and the al-Ta'if agreement.

Referring to the positions of France and the Vatican, al-Rasi said that the French Government supports the legitimate authority and is in favor of ending the abnormal situation in East Beirut. The Vatican is not in favor of military conflict in Lebanon.

Asked whether the Lebanese legitimate authority would seek Syrian assistance to resolve the situation in East Beirut, Minister al-Rasi said that the Syrian Army in Lebanon is at the disposal of Lebanese legitimacy. Therefore, it will have to get the assistance of the Syrian military forces to carry out any military operation at present. He added that every military operation at suffering is to end. One must realize this if the

Asked about the West Beirut security plan, al-Rasi affirmed the government's determination to implement this plan. He added that the events in East Beirut have caused the government to postpone the implementation of the plan, but that this was expected to begin in the near future.

Referring to the distribution of relief aid, Dr al-Rasi announced that a new shipment of medical supplies, EEC has arrived by air. He said that the shipment will be distributed among all East Beirut hospitals and those need supplies.

Regarding the project to extend the water supply from al-Damur to Beirut, he said that this project will be completed within 22 days. Until then, the Health Ministry and the relief committee will continue to distribute drinking water through mobile water tankers.

Lebanese Forces Clarify Adma Base Operation

NC1902192490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Forces General Staff on 19 February]

[Text] Although the Lebanese Forces have kept silent since the fall of the Adma base, some local and foreign media continue to carry contradictory information to carry out the evacuation about the circumstances which led to the evacuation of the Adma base and the deployment of the Lebanese Forces in it. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify the following points:

1. Since the start of the attacks against the barracks of the Lebanese Forces, the Adma base was an important center for the Army forces in the Kasrawan and Jubayl areas. It linked the centers of the military groups between Kasrawan and Nahr Ibrahim. Furthermore, highly trained groups were stationed at this base.

2. The Lebanese Forces decided to capture the Adma base and evict the commando groups against the peaceful citizens in the neighboring areas, such as directing sniper fire, stealing, and blocking roads, became excessive.

3. Contrary to some reports, the Lebanese Forces suffered three dead and seven wounded in the Adma operation.

4. The destruction of most of the military materiel at the base, especially the helicopters which were regarded as the Lebanese Air Force's most sophisticated, was carried out by the groups stationed there. These groups also seized civilian vehicles as they left the area.

5. The Lebanese Forces' agrees to the peaceful evacuation of the military groups from the Adma base because of their desire to break the cycle of madness, prevent further bloodshed and property damage, and open the way to dialogue and peace initiatives.

Maltese Government Asked To Seize Arms Shipment

*NC1902161690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has disclosed that the Lebanese ambassador to Rome has conveyed a message from the Lebanese Government to the Maltese Government requesting the latter to seize a ship bringing arms to Lebanon. Al-Huss expressed surprise at reports that the ship had sailed for an unknown destination.

Junblatt Concludes Visit to Soviet Union

*NC1802193390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 18 Feb 90*

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has concluded a visit of a few days to the Soviet Union. Lawyer Durayd Yaghi, PSP Politburo member and head of the PSP external relations office, accompanied Junblatt during the visit, which was made at the official invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

During the visit, Junblatt met with Alexander Drasokhov, chairman of the international relations committee of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister; Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near East department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry; [name indistinct], the official in charge of the Middle East department at the CPSU Central Committee; and other party and government officials.

At these meetings, the two sides underlined the strong ties between the CPSU and the PSP. The two sides also agreed on the need to continue consultations and meetings and to examine new developments and topics of common interest.

Intelligence Service Suspected in UTA Plane Attack

*AB0702181590 Paris AFRICA INTERNATIONAL
in French No 224, Feb 90 p 10*

[From the "Briefs" column]

[Text] Several authoritative sources are convinced that the terrorist attack on the DC-10 belonging to the UTA airline (September 1989) over the Tenere Desert was organized by Syrian intelligence services, and not by Iran, in retaliation for France's action last August. The aim of the operation, which was undertaken by Syrian intelligence agents (with the complicity of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command leader Ahmad Jibril), was to respond to the sending of French boats to the waters off Beirut. The intelligence agents of Damascus have their own logistics network of agents in Africa.

In an attempt to cover up the facts and frustrate investigations, Syrian General 'Ali Duba's agents introduced several misleading tracks, including that of the presence on the aircraft of French agents or arms traffickers. The Iranian track was next to be put in. Are the terrorist threats, which have been hanging over France since the arrest of a Hizballah commando in Spain, connected to the trial in Paris of the terrorist 'Ali Fuwad Shalah? This Tunisian, who was recruited by the hardline group in Tehran and Hizballah, is involved in the murderous terrorist attacks of 1986 in France. The network dismantled in Spain was expected, in the course of the trial, to carry out an operation (booby-trapped car?) and retreat to an English-speaking African country to confuse investigations further.

Al-Zu'bi Discusses Budget in People's Assembly

*JN2002202490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT
20 Feb 90*

[Text] Damascus, 20 Feb (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi today told the People's Assembly that we will continue on the road that will lead to building this country and strengthening its economic base.

On this subject, he referred to the general budget for the current year, 1990, which reflects the policy of opening opportunities to building this country with the hands of all its independent sons.

He added: The recommendations and proposals of the People's Assembly Budget and Accounts Committee will soon be put into practice with their inclusion in the government's programs.

He said that the discussions and proposals made by the People's Assembly concerning the draft general budget reflect the interest of the members in the people's affairs and concerns of the masses. They were also characterized by a strong interest in consolidating the positive aspects through the measures and steps taken by the government in the past.

Mr. al-Zu'bi added: These discussions have enhanced the government's steps to remove any vestiges of defects that could be present here or there in our public life, whether at the level of production, administration, or public life.

The prime minister said that the People's Assembly discussions reflect Syria's commitment to the cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the needs arising therein, such as allocating a great percentage of its human and material resources to constantly increasing security and defense elements, which make Syria the one Arab country bearing the brunt of the burden in confronting Zionist and other challenges.

He adds: Government work was, is, and will continue to proceed on the road we are moving along to grow and to manifest the policies affirmed by President Hafiz al-Asad and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Progressive National Front.

In his speech, the prime minister reviewed the great achievements of the agriculture policies, and the important developments achieved by encouraging the establishment of joint companies and removing obstacles in the way of the private sector's industrial investments. He affirmed that the government will continue to encourage individual initiatives in this sector and provide it with work and constructive opportunities for the individual and the society.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Leader Sayyaf Rejects Shevardnadze Plan

BK1602112190 Lahore THE NATION in English
16 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Prof. 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, Prime Minister of the Islamic Interim Government of Afghanistan [IGA], has categorically rejected Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's formula about Afghanistan question and reiterated that mujahidin will neither sit with Najib who is working as an alien agent nor will discontinue their struggle till the complete elimination of communism from Afghanistan.

He was addressing a press conference here to mark the completion of one year of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

It will be recalled that Soviet Union which invaded Afghanistan on December 27, 1979 withdrew its troops after facing humiliated defeat in the battlefield on February 15, 1989, after 10 years.

Prof. Sayyaf also expressed his views on U.S. assistance, Zahir Shah's role, elections, unity in Mujahidin ranks and future Afghan Government.

He said Soviet Union was defeated both militarily as well as ideologically by Afghan Mujahidin which ultimately resulted into defeat of the Communist at global scene.

To a question he said United States has assured the IGA its continued assistance to Afghan mujahidin.

He refuted the impression that field commanders have suspended fighting in Afghanistan and offered the newsmen to visit fronts of their choice with his men to see by themselves commanders engaged in war.

Prof. Sayyaf said USSR had officially announced its complete withdrawal from Afghanistan but practically increased its interference three fold besides her physical presence in the shape of advisers, technicians, expert and Jowjani Militia. However, Soviets have succeeded in deceiving our friends who being influenced by Soviet withdrawal announcement curtailed assistance to mujahidin.

He said if Zahir Shah, the former monarch, has any sympathy with the Afghan nation then he should support the decision taken by the Mujahidin. He is an old man and should keep in mind the fate of Taraki, Hafizullah Amin and Babrak Karmal, Sayyaf advised.

He said Election Commission has started its work inside Afghanistan on elections and Shaykh Asef Mohseni of Harakat-e Eslami Afghanistan, an Iran based Shia party, has also joined Election Commission and was working inside Afghanistan.

He said all the mujahidin were unanimous on the fundamental framework of the commission which would conduct elections and implement decisions taken by the Shura.

He said some more Afghans including technocrats and representatives who did not join the Interim Government would also be inducted in the Election Commission to enable it to run its affairs more objectively and smoothly.

He advised Soviet leadership to stop its interference and supply of arms to its puppet regime in Afghanistan and think objectively to establish relations with future Islamic Government in Afghanistan which would prefer peace with all its neighbours.

About differences in mujahidin ranks he said Afghans are also human being and difference of opinion is but human, however, they are united against their enemy and will soon evolve a single leadership to replace Najib regime.

He said "we will not allow any one to interfere in our internal affairs or try to impose their solution on Afghan people."

He suggested United Nations to support the just struggle of Afghan nation and do not plead the case of Moscow and puppet regime.

National Assembly Message to Supreme Soviet

LD1602104190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT
15 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 14, BAKHTAR—One year elapses from the return of the Soviet forces from the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) back home and the independently defence of the RA by the armed force of the country, says message of the Afghan National Assembly sent to Moscow addressed to the USSR Supreme Soviet today.

On the occasion, the message says, the National Assembly of the RA on behalf of the people of Afghanistan expresses its thanks and gratitudes for the all-sidedly assistance of the Soviet people and USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Afghan people are in firm believe that our great northern neighbour, the Soviet Union, gives assistance to Afghanistan and the USSR Supreme Soviet by deeply realising the conditions emanated from war, continues its assistance to the RA as before, the message concludes.

Pakistan Protests Reopening of French Embassy

BK2102074890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT
21 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 21 (AFP)—Pakistan has no right to protest France's decision to reopen its embassy here, the Afghan Government said Wednesday [21 February].

A government spokesman said France, which like other Western governments shut its embassy here in the days preceding last year's Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, had never cut diplomatic ties with Kabul.

The spokesman also cited the fact that Pakistan had maintained its own embassy in Kabul, at the level of charge d'affaires, throughout the 10-year-old Afghan war

and its diplomats were still present here. France in December broke a diplomatic logjam by announcing that it would be the first NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) country to reopen its mission here.

Since then Italy has indicated that it will send diplomats to Kabul early in March. Austria has decided to reopen its mission, and neutral diplomats here expect West Germany to follow suit.

The French decision has been hailed by the government of President Najibullah, which has repeatedly said there were no security reasons preventing diplomats from returning.

Paris's move has been opposed by Pakistan on grounds that it would affect the Islamabad-backed mujahidin resistance's efforts to "remove the remnants of the (Soviet) intervention" in Afghanistan.

At talks in Islamabad Tuesday during a visit by President Francois Mitterrand, French officials explained the decision to reactivate the mission.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Airspace Violations
LD1702214790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned yesterday afternoon to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Directorate:

The relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan have received the information that two aircraft of the Pakistani Air Force violated the air space of the Republic of Afghanistan on 5 February 1990 from the direction of the (Amu) border, Vakhani District, and after two minutes of reconnaissance flight, returned to Pakistani territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan lodges a strong protest against such aggression by the Pakistani Air Force which is an open violation of international norms and Geneva accords, and asks the responsible authorities of Pakistan to avoid a repetition of such action in the future. In the event of repetition of such action in the future, the responsibility stemming from such actions will obviously rest with the Government of Pakistan.

Najibullah's Message to Non-Aligned Chairman
LD1802164190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT
18 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 17, BAKHTAR—The complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan in compliance with the provisions of the Geneva agreements is the Afghan testimony of the staunchness of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and the Soviet Union for the honestly carrying of their international commitments, says the

message of Najibullah, president of the RA, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the independent defence of Afghanistan addressed to Janez Drnovsek, president of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which has been communicated to Belgrade today.

One year independent defence of the independent, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country has enhanced more than before national as well as international prestige and authority of the RA, remarked the message.

The message demands Janez Drnovsek that by availing his big political and moral influences take concrete steps for the implementation of the resolutions of the Belgrade NAM 9th summit conference for finding a peaceful and political solution to the issues in and around Afghanistan.

The message emphasised that the Republic of Afghanistan as a loyal member to the Non-Aligned Movement, will spare no efforts in fulfilling the goals and aims of the NAM.

Foreign Minister Wakil's Visit to India Assessed
LD1702235490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Excerpts] A BAKHTAR political commentator writes: Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil's visit to India is of great importance for strengthening and expanding relations between our neighboring countries. During the visit, talks on regional and international issues were conducted in an atmosphere of total understanding. It was emphasized that violations of Afghan territorial integrity and national sovereignty and interference in the Republic of India's internal affairs are all organized from a single source.

During the talks between Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, Indian Prime Minister His Excellency V.P. Singh, Indian Minister of External Affairs I.K. Gujral, and other Indian political and social figures and personalities, emphasis was placed on the immediate cessation of interference in the internal affairs of both countries and finding a political solution to all issues.

During his meeting with the Afghan foreign minister, the Indian prime minister said that relations with Afghanistan have deep historic roots. We firmly and without pretense stand by you and categorically back your government's measures to stem foreign violations. We appreciate your government's courage, manliness, and determination in dealing with all issues.

Indian Minister of External Affairs I.K. Gujral said interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs continues and we fully believe that complete and total observation of the Geneva accords can restore peace to Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister expressed full support for the measures India has taken to protect its unity and territorial integrity and considered further expansion of the friendly

relations between the two countries completely in line with the national interests of our people and for ensuring peace and security in the region and the world.

The Afghan foreign minister's official and friendly visit is of great importance from the point of view of expanding economic and cultural relations between the two countries. The sides agreed to double the level of trade between them. Expanding trade relations between the two countries through the participation of state and private corporations will include new departments, in addition to the traditional departments. The Indian side expressed its readiness for every type of cooperation with Afghanistan. As a first step it promised a grant in aid of 10 tonnes of medicine. Various departments will be involved in future aid from India.

The foreign minister's official and friendly visit has been widely publicized by Indian press. Various political and social circle in India warmly welcomed the visit. [passage omitted]

The people of Afghanistan are grateful for the responsible and sound awareness of their Indian friends of the present problems in our country and the sensible ways of overcoming the problems. They consider consolidating relations with the Republic of India in the interest of the people of the two countries and regional peace and security.

Defense Minister Visits Sarowbi Security Posts

*LD1702225690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 17 Feb 90*

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, yesterday visited security posts in Sarowbi District, Kabul Province.

According to the BAKHTAR military section, the minister of defense, accompanied by Lieutenant General 'Abdul Qadi Aka, general commander of Air and Air Defense Forces, inspected the level of combat preparedness of the Air Force units in Sarowbi District. In talking with the personnel, he explained their future responsibility for the further enhancement of combat capability and the strengthening of discipline. [passage omitted]

The report adds that during this meeting, Brigadier General (Gul Rang), operational commander, Sarowbi District, then spoke on behalf of the other personnel of the units and subunits of the Armed Forces, stationed in this district, and promised every work and activity for the restoration of peace and security.

At the end, badges and medals of the Republic of Afghanistan were presented to a number of officers, noncommissioned officers, and men who displayed heroism in restoring security along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway and in discharging the duties assigned to them by the minister of defense.

State Security Official on Year's Achievements

*LD1902065190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT
19 Feb 90*

[Text] Kabul, Feb 19, BAKHTAR—The Ministry of State Security, along with other Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) for the realization of the national reconciliation policy, specially after the return of the Soviet forces has accomplished its national duties during the one year of the independent defence of the country and is determined to do so in the future as well.

This was said by General Yar Muhammad, first deputy minister of the Ministry of State Security, in an interview with a BAKHTAR reporter today.

The ministry has foiled conspiracies, acts of sabotages, destruction and terroristic activities, hostile plans of the secret organisations and their agents during this period as well, he added.

The arrests and trials of the Saudi Wahhabis and other extremist's supporters such as Americans, Germans, and Pakistanis in the war fronts are the true witnesses which prove our talks.

The destructive activities and underground operations of the enemies in the cities, state buildings, contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces, educational, and economic and social institutions were timely discovered and made public through the mass media of the country, he said.

The disclosure and arrest of the Gulbuddin secret network—organizers of the explosions in the Institute of the Kabul Polytechnique, at the vicinity of the Indian Embassy and Bamiyan Hotel—are among the activities of the ministry to be mentioned here, he stressed.

The ministry has seized 2,000 kg of explosives, 17 Stinger and Blowpipe rockets launchers, 4,000 ground to ground rockets, 61,000 shells of heavy armaments imported from abroad in that period. It has prevented around 1,000 cases of rocket attacks, 14 explosions, 61 cases of conspiracies, 61 cases of terrorising people, and more than [figure indistinct] cases of embezzlement and economic sabotages in the country during the year, he concluded.

Bangladesh

Reportage on Visit of Indian Foreign Minister

Arrives in Dhaka 16 Feb

*BK1602131390 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 16 Feb 90*

[Text] Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral arrived in Dhaka Friday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. He was received at the Zia International Airport by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the Indian foreign minister said his visit is a milestone in the good relations and bilateral cooperation. He said he is a great believer of South Asia being a region of peace and friendship. Mr. Gujral said he has come with a message of warm friendship from the Indian prime minister and the people. He said there are vast scopes for increasing cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud said the current visit of the Indian foreign minister is a good opportunity for further cementing the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Banquet Speeches

BK1702030990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English

0110 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] The foreign minister says Bangladesh and India should work in a determined way to resolve bilateral problems. Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud was speaking at a dinner in honor of the visiting Indian external affairs minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, in Dhaka last night. He said there is no reason for the outstanding problems like sharing of common rivers, transfer of Tin Bigha, demarcation of boundary, return of tribal refugees, and South Talpatti to linger on. About SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], Mr. Mahmud said it is a family where members live in separate households but the ties that bind them together are far stronger than those that divide them.

Speaking on the occasion, the Indian external affairs minister said there is a greater need for cooperation than mistrust and a greater potentiality for friendship than suspicion. India, he said, is ready to play its part in the economic progress of Bangladesh.

About bilateral issues, Mr. Gujral said he hopes they will be able to steer away from the cobweb of the past. Mr. Gujral said his government is responsive and sympathetic to the national interests and sensitivities of its neighbors. India, he said, will make every effort to strengthen bilateral ties with its neighbors.

Official Talks Begin

BK1702135990 Dhaka Overseas Service in English

1230 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] Official talks between Bangladesh and India at the foreign ministers' level began in Dhaka Saturday [17 February]. The Bangladesh delegation at the talks was led by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and the Indian side by visiting External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

Briefing newsmen afterwards, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said the talks, which lasted for about two hours, were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship. Initially, the two foreign ministers met exclusively and later they joined members of their respective delegations for official talks. The discussions covered all bilateral matters. They also exchanged views on matters of regional and international concern.

Replying to a question on the outcome of Saturday's talks, the foreign secretary said it was satisfactory and there was positive response from the Indian side on the solution of bilateral disputes, including the return of Chakma refugees and Tin Bigha corridor issue.

The talks will continue Sunday.

Earlier, the Indian external affairs minister visited the national monuments for martyrs at Savar and laid a wreath there.

Flood Control, 'Tribals' Discussed

BK1702161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English

1530 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] India and Bangladesh have taken some major decisions on resolving bilateral problems, including the issue of Chakma rebels, sharing of waters, and increasing trade and economic relations. These decisions were taken during a meeting between the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud, in Dhaka today.

As an outcome of the talks, the Bangladesh Government today announced its decision to return to Hindu owners the property acquired after 1984 and also promised to take steps to check illegal migration across the border.

It was decided in the meeting to revive the task force set up in 1988 to control floods between the two countries from common rivers. Bangladesh said it will lay a broad-gauge line between Rangpur and (?Shinghabad) to facilitate greater movement of Indian goods to that country.

It was agreed to conclude an agreement on avoidance of double taxation at the third meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission to be held in May at New Delhi after the gap of seven years.

The Bangladesh foreign minister invited Indian investment in his country.

Mr. Gujral assured Mr. Mahmud that India will put a stop to any anti-Bangladesh activity of the so-called Shanti Sena [Peace Force] of the Chakma tribals operating from Indian territory.

Mr. Gujral apprised the Bangladesh foreign minister of the Indian Government's efforts to improve relations with its neighbors.

India

Singh, Former Pakistani Minister Discuss Kashmir

BK1802162390 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network

in English 1600 GMT 18 Feb 90 [Text] The prime minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has said that India respects Pakistan's boundaries and we wanted Islamabad on its part to respect India's territorial integrity. Agencies report that Mr. V.P. Singh conveyed this to the former

Pakistan information minister, Maulana Kauser Niazi, when he called on the prime minister today. Mr V.P. Singh also ruled out any aggressive designs against Pakistan.

The prime minister said that the recent happenings in Jammu and Kashmir had affected the normalization process. He expressed the hope that the Pakistan Government will not allow the situation to escalate.

Mr V.P. Singh also said that he hopes the meetings of the India-Pakistan joint Commission will speed up the normalization process. The prime minister said that India's call for normal relations should not be seen as a weakness and that it was prepared for any eventuality.

The visiting Pakistani leader said his meeting with the prime minister was important and he would brief the Pakistani leaders.

V.P. Singh on Pakistani Nuclear Weapons, Options

BK2002133790 Delhi Domestic Service in English

1230 GMT 20 Feb 90 [Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has declared that India will have to review its peaceful nuclear policy if Pakistan manufactures nuclear weapons. He was speaking to newsmen at Rajkot today. Mr. Singh said if Pakistan uses its nuclear power for military purposes it will have a radical effect on the environment in the region, necessitating India to think over its options.

In an apparent reference to Pakistan's machination in Kashmir, the prime minister said no country should underestimate India's strength, and if it does, it would be at its own peril.

Later, addressing a public meeting, Mr. Singh reiterated government's commitment to waive farmer's loan and ensure remunerative price for farm produce. He said special attention will be given to unemployment in the eighth plan. A special commission will also be set up for promoting welfare of women.

BJP Chief Calls For Review of Nuclear Options

BK2102041590 Delhi Domestic Service in English

0240 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has urged the National Front government to review its nuclear options in view of the reports of Pakistan acquiring six atom bombs. Addressing a public meeting in Bombay yesterday, Mr. Vajpayee asked the union government to put pressure on Pakistan to give up going nuclear.

Accusing Pakistan of creating disturbances in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, he said that by this Mrs. Benazir Bhutto was diverting her people's attention from the acute internal problems.

Welcomes Premier's Assertion

BK2102085890 Delhi Domestic Service in English

0830 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has welcomed the assertion of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to review India's nuclear policy in view of the reports of Pakistan acquiring the atom bomb.

Addressing a news conference in Ahmedabad this morning, he asked the government to take up this issue with the United States and impress upon it the need to stop economic and military assistance to Pakistan.

Mr Vajpayee strongly criticized the Congress-I for its alleged attempts to sow the seeds of distrust between the BJP and the Janata Dal.

Gandhi Warns Pakistan Against 'Evil Designs'

BK1902162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English

1530 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has warned Pakistan that the entire nation will rise as one man if it nursed any evil designs toward India. Addressing public meetings in Simla and Palampur in Himachal Pradesh today, he alleged that the National Front government has not been able to face the challenge of terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Official on Reported PRC Kashmir Mediation Offer

BK1902135890 Delhi General Overseas Service

in English 1330 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman reiterated in New Delhi today that the Simla Agreement provides the framework for resolving any issue bilaterally and peacefully between India and Pakistan. The spokesman was reacting to reports that China has offered to mediate between Islamabad and New Delhi to solve the Kashmir problem. The spokesman said that the difficulties in Kashmir are primarily a result of intervention in our internal affairs by elements operating from the territory under the control of Pakistan and its support to terrorism.

Gujral Rebuts Sri Lankan Charge on Treaty

BK1602131190 Delhi Domestic Service in English

1230 GMT 16 Feb 90 [Text] India has refuted Sri Lanka's charge that New Delhi is trying to thrust on it a friendship treaty. Speaking to newsmen at Calcutta on his way to Dhaka today, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, made it clear that there was and there is no pressure from India to sign the treaty early. Mr. Gujral pointed out that the proposal for the treaty came from Sri Lanka last year.

India, he said, is quite happy with the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of 1987 in its present form; it is only to accommodate Sri Lanka's proposal that India has given a draft of a friendship treaty.

Mr. Gujral was reacting to the Sri Lankan foreign minister's statement in Colombo yesterday that his government cannot be coerced to sign a friendship treaty with India before the last Indian soldier of PKF [Peace-keeping Force] left his country.

Spokesman Cautions Sri Lanka on Safety of Tamils

*BK1602162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Feb 90*

[Text] India has cautioned Sri Lanka that it will take a very serious view of Colombo's failure to guarantee the safety and security of the Tamils following the deinduction of the Peacekeeping Force. Responding to queries, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry today said that the allegations made by the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Wijeratne, about attempts by the Research and Analysis Wing, RAW, to kill key functionaries of the Premadasa government have been proved to be hollow by the lifting of the emergency in that country. Describing the allegations as unfortunate and irresponsible, the spokesman said the Sri Lankan authorities are perhaps trying to prepare an alibi for the possible exodus of refugees. Colombo is apprehensive about internecine clashes among the Tamil groups and its failure to guarantee them safety. This, the spokesman added, will be viewed very seriously.

He recalled that a similar bogey of the involvement of the Indian intelligence agencies had been raised when TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] leaders Mr. Amirthalingam and Mr. Yogeswari were killed till the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] owned up to the crimes.

Nepalese Delegation Arrives for Secretary-Level Talks

*BK2002060890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] Secretary-level talks between India and Nepal begin in New Delhi today. A six-member Nepalese delegation, led by the foreign secretary, Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah, arrived in New Delhi last night. The Indian delegation to the two-day bilateral talks will be led by the foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh. The two delegations will discuss wide-ranging issues, focusing their attention on a framework for a durable bilateral relationship.

Our correspondent understands that while reviewing the entire gamut of economic relations, the two delegations will mainly discuss issues relating to trade and transit, measures to take on authorized trade, and security perceptions of the two countries.

'High-level Discussions' Begin

*BK2002080390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] India and Nepal today began high-level discussions covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The foreign secretary, Mr. S.K. Singh, is leading the Indian delegation to the two-day intensive talks in New Delhi. The Nepalese side is led by their foreign secretary, Mr. Narendra Bikram Shah.

For the first time in recent years, the two sides have included their defense secretaries in the bilateral discussions. India has already announced its commitment to good neighborly relations with Nepal. New Delhi has also assured Kathmandu that its problems and concerns will be considered with understanding, general sympathy, and friendship.

The New Delhi talks, which are a follow-up of the Nepalese foreign minister's visit last month, will also cover issues relating to trade and transit and measures to check unauthorized border trade.

Our correspondent says the new Indian envoy to Nepal, retired Lieutenant General S.K. Sinha, is scheduled to present his credentials to King Birendra on Thursday [22 February] at Pokhara.

First Round 'Marked by Frankness'

*BK2002145990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 20 Feb 90*

[Text] India has called for strengthening of relationship and developing new areas of cooperation with Nepal instead of merely seeking solutions only to the present difficulties between the two countries. At the same time, it has assured that New Delhi would view with genuine sympathy and friendliness the problems and concerns of Kathmandu.

The Indian point of view was conveyed at the first round of high-level official discussions between India and Nepal which began in New Delhi today. The Nepalese delegation in its turn assured that they will fully reciprocate the Indian gesture without reservation.

Briefing newsmen, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the talks were marked by frankness, cordiality, and seriousness of purpose to resolve all outstanding matters.

No Party Gains Majority in Manipur Elections

*BK1702085290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 17 Feb 90*

[Excerpt] In Manipur, a 46-member new legislative assembly has been constituted. The Election Commission issued a notification to this effect this morning. This was stated by the secretary of the commission, Mr. C.L. Rose, in Imphal today.

Our Imphal correspondent reports that hectic political activity is going on in the state for forming a new government. The Congress-I and the newly formed opposition front, which have secured 23 seats each, are staking their claims to form a new government.

The Manipur governor, Mr. Chintamani Panigrahi, has sent a report to the president on the uncertain political situation in the state, with no single party having secured a majority after announcement of the 46 assembly results. In 12 constituencies, a repoll has been ordered following burning of ballot papers, and elections in two constituencies have been countermanded.

Our special correspondent, quoting informed sources, says that the governor's report has suggested various options, which include a short spell of president's rule in the state. The decision on the matter is likely to be taken later today after the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, returns to the capital from his election tour of Rajasthan and Gujarat. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Arrest 'Subversives' in Kashmir

BK2102033790 Delhi Domestic Service in English

0240 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Text] The situation in the Kashmir Valley remained peaceful during the night, and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere. Day curfew had been lifted in Srinagar.

Meanwhile, security forces have come to know of a gang of subversives operating under the name of (Hezbi-Mujahidin) and arrested its members during a raid on its hideout in a suburb of Srinagar. Incriminating documents were seized. These included threatening letters to imams of mosques and shopkeepers. During the last 10 days, 15 subversives have been arrested in different raids by security forces. Two subversives were also killed in an encounter.

Iran

Khamene'i Receives Clerics, Seminarians, Others

LD2102144490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Excerpt] Today, simultaneous with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Lord of Tolerance, the seventh imam of the world's Shiites, His Holiness Imam Musa Kazem, may God's benedictions be upon him and his scion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, received a gathering comprised of members from the seminarians committee, Qom seminary managerial board, Tehran association of the ulema and seminarians, Qom Friday Imam's, seminarians, militant clerics, a number of the war disabled, officials from the office of the vice regency of the jurisconsult, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, 'ulema and clerics from the ideological political offices of the army, Gendarmerie, Ministry of Defense and Logistics, and a number of sister seminarians from Tehran and Qom. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tables Budget Bill 20 Feb

LD2002164890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 20 Feb 90 [Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented the 4,009 billion rial budget bill for the year 1369 [starting 21 March 1990] to the Majles today. Our correspondent reports on today's Majles open session.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The budget bill for 1369 was presented to the Majles by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. Tabling the bill, he said that one of its strong points was the care and attention given by His Holiness Imam Khomeyni to the plan and his order regarding the setting up of the supreme reconstruction council, chaired by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Recounting the special aspects of the plan he said: We tried to plan our budget within the framework of the Five-Year Plan. In any case, this is an ordinary bill and open to amendment. However, it is imperative that it is fully implemented.

He said: The most important point about the 1369 budget bill is that it was prepared within the framework of the first economic, social, and cultural development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The latest steps taken testify to the coordination between the forecasts in the first plan and the actual revenues and expenditures in the government's 1369 budget. He added:

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From a domestic viewpoint the situation for implementing the plan is favorable. That is, nearly all the officials believe in it and feel this shortcoming in their lives [as heard]. Those in working environments constantly complained about the absence of planning; but they are now optimistic. The work force senses that there is a need for more hard work, so that the problems resulting from war, revolutionary conditions, and the previous era are overcome. This means that the majority in the country is in favour of serious efforts to implement the plan. The discussions about the plan have also given the impression that, as a positive step and an unavoidable necessity, the program is popular in our

society. [end recording] [passage omitted] The president referred to the attention given to the country's deprived and less developed parts, which is one of the main criteria in the preparation of the first plan, as another special characteristic of next year's budget bill. He pointed out: By taking into account the postwar conditions and the need for reconstructing the country, we have tried, as much as possible, to prepare the articles in such a way that the executive apparatus is given a free hand to better perform their assigned tasks, and limitations are not put on the authority of the executive branch.

Concerning the general revenues in the budget bill, he said: The general revenues in next year's budget have been estimated at 4,000.7 billion rials, an increase of

27.3 percent compared to this year's actual figure. Of that figure, 40.5 percent constitute tax revenues, 27.2 percent oil and gas revenues, and 32.2 percent other revenues. Considering the measures to be taken in the first plan, tax revenues for next year are estimated at 1,623.7 billion rials, an increase of more than 41.1 percent compared to this year's figure.

The tax revenues to current expenditures ratio will rise from 28.8 percent in 67 [year ending 20 March 1989] and 35.5 percent in 68 [year ending 20 March 1990] to 49.9 percent in 69. To make the tax system fairer, business tax for next year is twice the estimated figure for 68. Business tax collected will be 2.2 times the income tax collected.

Oil and gas revenues are estimated at 1,089.6 billion rials, an increase of about 21 percent compared with this year's figure. It should be pointed out that next year, for the first time in recent years, gas revenues, which have been estimated at 20 billion rials, have been added to government revenues. Also, oil byproduct exports revenues for next year have been estimated at 30.4 billion rials.

Concerning expenditures he said: The current expenditures have been estimated at 3,964.5 billion rials, showing a 15.6 percent increase compared to this year.

The president quoted the sum allocated by the government to development in 1369 as 1,631.3 billion rials. He assured: In the disbursement of the government's development allocations, in the year 69, preference will be given to providing the necessary investment to create physical, educational, and health facilities, expanding land and water resources, and providing infrastructural equipment, particularly communications requirements.

The president said that the sums allocated to agricultural development for next year amount to 160 billion rials. [passage omitted]

Considering industries and mines, the president then referred to the foreign exchange and local currency allocated to that sector. He added: The cost of commissioning the country's heavy manufacturing industries for next year will be 49.5 percent higher than that for the year 67.

The president said that, to provide the essential goods required in 69, an estimated 10,400,000 tonnes of goods will be imported. He pointed out: To expand and improve non-oil exports and gain foreign currency revenues, not projected in the budget, certain guidelines and incentives have been arranged and the necessary foreign currency has been allocated in next year's budget as provision for working capital to exporters.

The president announced that the oil production capacity, on land and on the continental shelf, will be raised to 3,570,000 barrels per day. He added: Oil byproduct exports will reach \$407 million. Work on Arak and Bandar 'Abbas refineries will continue and

liquefied gas output in 69 will increase by 28 percent compared to this year. Surplus liquefied gas production will be exported.

Continuing to describe government policies in the development section of next year's budget bill, he said: Sums have been allocated for the construction of 5,424 houses for blue and white collar workers all over the country. Some 1,800 km of new major, minor and rural roads will be built. Work on projects for generating about 6,000 megawatts of power will start and, with the reconstruction of the existing power stations, the country's power generation capacity will be increased by nearly 1,090 megawatts. [passage omitted]

Clandestine Radio on Soccer Demonstrations

NC1802150390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mojahed

in Persian 0600 GMT 18 Feb 90 [Text] Thousands of heroic Tehran residents staged large-scale demonstrations yesterday against the accursed dregs of the Khomeyni regime. Shouting "Death to Khamene'i," "Death to Hashemi-Rafsanjani," and "Death to the Khomeyni regime," they displayed their profound and intense hatred of this decrepit regime.

These protest demonstrations were a backlash of fury over the cancellation of a soccer match and the regime's failure to announce it beforehand. According to reports received, the areas surrounding the Amjadieh and Azadi stadiums in Tehran were the scenes of clashes between the people, who had reached the end of their endurance, and the regime's repressive forces.

During the clashes, which lasted for hours, the enraged people set fire to the patrol vehicles of the mercenary lackeys known as the Jondollah patrol in response to the shooting by the criminal guards and shouted slogans in support of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, its resistance, and its leadership. The furious demonstrators also attacked a number of buildings housing the regime's departments and installations in the streets neighboring the Amjadieh and Azadi stadiums and set fire to some government automobiles and buses.

Tudeh Party Issues Statement on Demonstrations

LD1902184290 (Clandestine) Radio of the

Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Feb 90 [Text] Dear listeners, the Tudeh Party of Iran has issued a statement in connection with the recent demonstrations in Tehran, to which we draw your attention.

[Title] The statement of the Tudeh Party of Iran in connection with the anti-government demonstrations in Tehran.

Dear liberation-seeking compatriots; oh progressive and combative people of the country. The large-scale anti-government demonstrations on Friday 27 Bahman [16 February] in Tehran, were the result of the people's deep anger toward, and hatred for, the dictatorial, corrupt,

and while anti-popular ruling regime. The demonstrations, which were staged by tens of thousands of people in quietest against the cancellation of football fixtures, the which gained popular momentum and spread through Teh streets in the central, western, and eastern parts of slogaran. During the demonstrations the people shouted the gans against the leaders of the regime and called for establishment of freedom in the country.

Frightened by the wrath of the people, the rulers discredited their Guards and [word indistinct] to cruelly Accsh the people and open fire on the demonstrators. the cording to latest reports, as a result of the onslaught by arre Guards, dozens of people were injured and hundreds ested.

Hours after the start of the demonstrations the leaders of tion regime tried to staunch the spread of the demonstra- of tis to other parts by holding an extraordinary session demthe National Security Council. By (?dedriding) the reginonstrations and openly insulting the people, the pouime's press demonstrated its fear of the people uring onto the streets.

Oh! onst liberal and honorable people of Iran. Friday's dem- grotuations were another example of the people's interwing and widespread opposition to the self- regereest-seeking and anti-popular regime of the vice- stroency of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih]. The million- of ong masses of our compatriots, who have had enough [worever-increasing suppression, oppression, poverty, bravrd indistinct], homelessness, and high prices, are makvely and resolutely confronting the corrupt rulers and king the trembling foundations of the regime shakier.

In the confrontation with the anti-popular regime the andple are inspired by the invaluable ideals, experiences rual [word indistinct] of the Bahman revolution [Feb- ry 1979].

The is se disgraced and crisis-ridden regime, whose disgrace hearpoken of everywhere, is incapable of unlimited [as satisrd] resistance against the uncontrollable rush of dis- weelsfaction and [word indistinct] of the masses. A few Rigeeks ago, when the representative of the [UN] Human the ights Commission was visiting Iran, the open protest of pris people and the families of martyrs and political seeksoners against torture and massacre of liberation- Thickers placed the regime in a difficult position yet again. mais increasing trend of the protest movement, another willanifestation of which was Friday's demonstrations, ll inevitably continue.

Oh! peol liberation-seeking compatriots, politically active proople. Consider a number of important points in the testocess of organizing and bringing to fruition the pro- sts of the masses against the despotic ruling regime.

Tran- andansform scattered and autonomous demonstrations estad movements into a well-aimed movement toward the tablishment of freedom.

In the struggle against the regime observe solidarity in the ranks of the people and coordinated action among all liberation-seeking forces.

Join the progressive and combative forces and politically active cells and support them.

By accurately evaluating the regime's capabilities foil its suppressive plots and raise self-confidence and courage in the struggle against the regime.

Utilize all possible methods and means of struggle suit- able for the growth of the movement of the masses.

Dissuade the Armed Forces personnel from confronting the masses.

With full alertness and ingenuity neutralize the efforts of the regime's political police to discover and crush resistance cells.

Victory belongs to the masses.

[Signed] The Tudeh Party of Iran, 28 Bahman 1368 [17 February 1990]

President Addresses Military University Graduates

LD2002215390 Tehran Television Service in Persian

1600 GMT 20 Feb 90 [Excerpts] Ceremonies to award degrees and insignia to graduates of the military sciences university took place today in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our correspondent reports in that connection:

Ceremonies to celebrate the graduation of students from the military sciences university of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ground Forces took place this afternoon in presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as well as advisers to the commander in chief, commanders of various brigades, the country's officials, several military attaches, and the families of martyrs and disabled. After the awarding of degrees and prizes for the special course of command and staff faculty, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a detailed speech in which he congratulated the graduates, while commemorating the esteemed martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war. He said: Fortunately our people, through the course of an imposed war, came to understand the meaning of being a soldier and a military person, and today the value of the armed forces is very clear for our society. [passage omitted]

At the end of those ceremonies, the military personnel staged a parade in front of the stand.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Security Forces

LD2002235390 Tehran Television Service in Persian

1600 GMT 20 Feb 90 [Text] A number of personnel from security and information units of security forces, together with a group of students and educationalists

from al-Zahra University, today met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at his Jamaran residence.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni in that meeting said: Today arrogance and the United States do not oppose us merely on the grounds of our political, military, or economic stances. It is, rather, for pure Islam—which only exists in Iran—and for the Islamic and revolutionary spirit which is present among our people. Other countries, despite their claim to being Islamic, lack real essence [as heard]. He then pointed to the need for unity in the face of arrogance's front, adding: If today we should fail to hold each other's hand and stand against the internal and external fronts of arrogance, and against those who favor U.S. Islam, then a split will appear in the convoy of righteousness, leading to the victory of the wrong ones, for which we will be responsible. Today we must try so that the efforts of our brothers and sisters for this revolution, as well as the efforts of our dear officials and the Islamic world in general, may not be wasted.

He then pointed to his holiness the imam's decree in relation to the book of apostate Salman Rushdie, and stressed that today in every corner of the world, wherever there is an Islamic movement, such movements are influenced by the imam and his path. He added: We must make endeavors toward knowing the pure Muhammadan Islam. Right now, wherever you go, you hear about revolutionary movements and the political stances of the imam, and about the things he did in order to make the revolution triumphant. However, the ideological stances of the imam have not been delineated. We must ask the specialists and technical interpreters about the precise nature of the imam's opinions. He then said: God willing, we will all be able to traverse on the imam's path without ever becoming disappointed. We must surely strengthen this system and its foundations.

Cabinet Discusses Domestic, International Issues

NC1902064390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

0430 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] The cabinet met yesterday afternoon and discussed the most important domestic and foreign developments. It also approved proposals submitted by executive organs. The Central News Unit reports that during this session, the cabinet approved a bill to prevent cutting down rare trees as well as to punish violators, and a bill on increasing and altering the wages and benefits of mayors and municipality employees.

President Chairs Security Council Meeting

LD1702203190 Tehran Television Service in Persian

1600 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] The Supreme Council for National Security met this evening. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, and was attended by the other members of the council. In the meeting, maintenance of security in the Persian Gulf,

with the cooperation of the region's countries, was examined and discussed, and the necessary decisions were made.

Three New Political Parties Licensed

LD1802204490 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT

18 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—The Interior Ministry today issued licenses for three parties. The parties are Hedayat-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance), the Islamic Association of Graduates from the Indo-Pak Sub-Continent, and the Society of Zoroastrian Priests.

Hedayat-e Eslami party is chaired by Dariush Zargari Marandi while that of the Zoroastrians by Ardeshir Azargoshasb.

The chairman of the Islamic Association of Graduates from the sub-continent has not been determined yet.

First Domestically-Made Gunboat Launched 19 Feb

LD1902184390 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT

19 Feb 90 [Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormuzgan), Feb. 19, IRNA—The first prototype of an Iranian-made gunboat was launched at this southern port-city Monday.

Named 'Fateh' (Conqueror), the gunboat is 18 meters long, 4 metres wide and 4 metres high. It is powered by two 500 horse-power engines.

The gunboat, used for both combat and patrol purposes, was exclusively designed and manufactured by Iranian experts at the maritime industries unit, affiliated to the Ministry of Defence and armed forces logistics.

All sorts of artillery pieces and light and medium rocket launchers can be mounted on the gunboat.

Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Akbar Torkan, who was present at the launching ceremony, said manufacture of the modern gunboat indicates the blend of faith and technology in Iranian experts.

Arak's Friday Imam Killed in Car Accident

LD1702213790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1230 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] Magnificent funeral processions were held this morning for Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Khansari, the son of Ayatollah Khansari, Arak's representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the Friday imam, in the presence of Mr. Gharazi, the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, and the governor general of the Central Province, and thousands of Muslim people from various strata of Arak. The participants while beating their chests and chanting "It is the day of mourning today; it is the mourning of our Friday imam today," followed the body from the al-Qods mosque to the Friday prayers site of the province.

According to the same report, at the end of those ceremonies, the immaculate body of Mohammad Hasan Khansari was transferred to the Qom Province for burial.

The same report mentions that on this occasion the city of Arak was in total standstill this morning.

It is worth mentioning that Hojjat ol-Islam Mohammad Hasan Khansari was killed in a car accident enroute from Qom to Arak while returning during the early hours of last Friday.

Iraqi POW's Blame Saddam for Inaction

LD1202204390 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT

12 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—Iraqi prisoners of war today held Saddam Husayn responsible for deliberately hindering enforcement of U.N. Resolution 598 in order to prevent their return home.

During a meeting with their families at a POW camp here Monday, the POWs said that Saddam regards Iraqi POWs who have realized the real nature of the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad as 'a threat to the future of his regime.'

'Saddam is considered a war criminal and must be prosecuted by international circles for his numerous crimes during the war,' they stressed.

The meeting, the 53rd of its kind since the start of the Iraqi aggression on 22 September 1980, was part of the routine humanitarian gestures of the Islamic Republic.

The war prisoners also requested the Islamic Republic to utilize their services for reconstruction projects.

An Iraqi officer, speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons, told IRNA that after the rule of Islam prevailed in Iran in 1979, global arrogance equipped its most obedient puppet, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, with sophisticated weapons to confront the Islamic Republic.

A conscript who also asked not to be named, revealed that a large number of Iraqi citizens who refused to fight their Iranian brethren had been savagely tortured and executed by the Ba'thist regime after Iran accepted Resolution 598 in July 1988.

A POW belonging to the Assyrian Christian sect, captured at Shush in southern Iran, thanked POW officials for their humane behavior towards all prisoners, both Christian and Muslim, and for having provided them with every convenience and comfort.

The Muslims in Iran and Iraq are bound by centuries old ties, and the Ba'thist regime fearful of an Islamic revolution in Iraq, launched the aggression on the new found Islamic Republic.

Editorial on UN Security Council's 'Weakness'

*NC2102123890 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES
INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 15 Feb 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "A Plan To Salvage Resolution 598"] [Text] It is not now hidden from anyone that the Security Council [S.C.] is not cooperating with the U.N. Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar to implement his proposals regarding Iran-Iraq ceasefire Resolution 598.

The defeat of Perez de Cuellar's four-article and two-article plans, in spite of having Iran's explicit support, signify one thing only: Security Council's weakness in executing related plans.

But how can one assign any credit to the future plans of the secretary general if his plan for paragraph 41 is also blocked? And in that case what assurance can one ever have on the clout of the Security Council to execute its own sponsored Resolution 598?

Such a weakness on the part of the U.N. chief and the Security Council is a bitter fact and totally detrimental to the international body's charter.

The experience of the past one and a half years however cannot just be pushed into oblivion nor can it be ignored. Probably one of the reasons for the proposal of the USSR, itself a powerful member of the S.C. to mediate in the stalled peace talks should be sought in this inability and weakness of the S.C. to implement the related plans.

What should be done now? The following may be a framework within which the views of the U.N. secretary general, Iran and Iraq are encapsulated:

1-All the POWs should be at once registered under the supervision of the Red Cross International.

2-POWs exchange should commence with the exchange of the disabled and sick POWs. This gradual process should continue incessantly and with no precondition by the two parties under the ICR's monitoring until total exchange is completed.

3-Simultaneously with the POW's gradual exchange, a troop withdrawal to internationally recognized borders too should begin. The pullout should also go on until total evacuation of occupied territories is fulfilled.

4-With the commencement of the POWs exchange and evacuation of the occupied territories, the two countries' representatives can start their direct negotiations under the secretary general's supervision.

Undoubtedly any two countries which intend to enter into a peaceful coexistence should benefit from direct talks. But such direct negotiations should in no way block the peace resolution and hamper the POWs exchange and the evacuation of the occupied territories with a tangible advance in the above mentioned stages, direct talks can be taken up to higher levels.

5-After the POWs exchange and the fulfillment of the evacuation from occupied lands and within a framework of successful direct talks, the two capitals can come up with initiatives to boost contact between the two countries. Such measures may include a plan for reciprocal public traffic between the two countries, facilitating visits to holy shrines in both countries, facilitating border trade cooperation in OPEC, etc.

6-The main criterion for these initiatives should be a total implementation of Resolution 598, and the U.N. secretary general should play an axial role in this connection. Both Iran and Iraq, especially the Security Council and all countries intending to mediate should support the U.N. chief that no mediatory effort undermine his role.

7-Meanwhile all efforts and bids for mediation aimed at facilitating the implementation of Resolution 598 and supporting Perez de Cuellar's plans and steps to settle all other outstanding issues between the two countries should be welcomed. An instance of such efforts is the bids by the Soviet Union and Oman to mediate between the two capitals.

President Stresses 'Decisiveness' in Drug Fight

LD1702223390 Tehran Television Service in Persian

1600 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] The headquarters for the fight against narcotics held a session last night, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During the meeting, after a report was submitted on the successful operations of the members of the headquarters for the fight against narcotics over the past year, while praising the members of the headquarters for their efforts, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the importance of more decisiveness in the fight against narcotics.

Drug Rings Discovered in Gilan; Narcotics Seized

LD1702130990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] Thanks to the efforts of the personnel from the Islamic Revolution Court of Gilan Province, a narcotics distribution ring was uncovered, on whom 50 kg of opium were found and seized. According to an IRNA report, with the demolition of that ring, seven of its members were arrested. On the basis of the same report, following investigations carried out by the personnel from the Islamic Revolution Court, a heroin distribution ring was also uncovered in the town of Rasht last week and four of its members, on whom 2.5 kg of heroin were found, were arrested and handed over to the province's judicial authorities.

30 Drug Traffickers Hanged 19 Feb

LD1902203990 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT

19 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA—Thirty smugglers were hanged in Tehran and in nine other cities this

morning on the rulings of the Islamic revolution tribunals, according to the office of the prosecutor general.

They were found guilty of collaborating with international narcotic rings, of setting up corruption centers, narcotic trafficking and distributing them in Iran, smuggling firearms and explosives, and collaborating with thugs.

Eleven smugglers were hanged in Tehran, five in Sabzewar (Khorasan), two in Karaj (west of Tehran), four in Arak (Central Province), two in Kerman (Kerman), two in Bushehr (Bushehr), one in Sari (Mazandaran), one in Qom (south of Tehran), one in Rasht (Gilan) and one in Bakhtaran (Bakhtaran Province).

President Receives Hezbollah Officials

LD1902115790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] A number of 'ulema from the Lebanese Hezbollah Central Council met President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. A comprehensive report on the latest developments in Lebanon and the region was presented to our clients in Lebanon and the Hashemi-Rafsanjani conveyed the country's president. Hashemi-Rafsanjani conveyed the Islamic Republic of Iran's preparedness to help Hezbollah and the region's Muslims confront the enemies of Islam, particularly Zionism and global arrogance.

Khomeyni, Lebanon's Sha'ban Meet

LD1702122790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement of Lebanon, met and conferred with Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni today. According to a Central News Unit report, the issues of mutual interest and those concerning the Lebanese Muslims were discussed at that meeting.

'Several Thousand' Korans Sent to Soviet Muslims

NC2102111690 Paris AFP in English 1109 GMT

21 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 21 (AFP)—Iran has sent several thousand copies of the Koran, Islam's holy book, to Muslims in the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, a senior religious official said here.

Hojjat ol-Islam Mehdi Jamana, head of Iran's pilgrimage and religious properties organization, said in a press statement that Azerbaijani Muslims had requested the Korans, of which 1,000 were written in Arabic. The rest were

Azerbaijan, where there has been a recent upsurge in nationalist and Islamic sentiment, borders northern Iran.

Azerbaijanis in January staged demonstrations on the northern bank of the Aras River which divides the two countries, demanding greater access to their religionists in Iran.

Travel Agreement Signed With Soviet Union*LD2002160990 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT*

20 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—Iranian and Soviet citizens can visit each other's countries on regular tours to be set up as of April, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular and Legal Affairs Mojtaba Mir Mehdi said here Tuesday.

He said that citizens of the two countries would be able to travel in 150-member groups on each tour bound for Tehran, Qom, Mashhad and Tabriz in Iranian territory and for Baku, Shamakhyan, Shakhi, Kyob and Kirovabad on Soviet soil.

Last week, Mir Mehdi and his Soviet counterpart Boris Chapilin inked one agreement in Tehran for the travel of Iranian and Soviet citizens with relatives in the other country, and another agreement for the travel of other citizens without kins in the other country.

Daily Scorns UK Commons' Support for MKO*LD1802192590 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT*

18 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—The British House of Commons once again showed its rage towards the Islamic Republic of Iran by supporting the Monafeqin Khalq Organisation (MKO), an Iranian daily said Sunday.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' was referring in its editorial to a harsh-worded statement signed by 248 members of the British House of Commons on Friday calling for replacement of Islamic Republic of Iran by the MKO in the United Nations.

Apparently the British Government wanted "to put pressure on Iran through a non-government organ," said the English daily.

"The Thatcher government is trying to throw the ball into Iran's court," added the daily referring to the crisis erupted in Britain on the anniversary of the fatwa issued by the later leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni against Salman Rushdie, the blasphemous author of 'The Satanic Verses'.

Ironically the number of signatories, 248 out of 658 members of the house, was too low to be of importance, said the editorial adding that even if the entire house had signed the statement it was an insignificant tactic to pressure Iran.

Referring to the statement accusing Iran of having terrorism as "one of its inherent characteristics," the daily said, "the cheapness of both the accusation and the mentality of the signatories becomes so evident when one remembers that MKO and terrorism are just inseparable."

The British House of Commons sided with the MKO only because of the latter's animosity toward the Iranian Government, it added.

"As such neither the alternative nor those who suggest it bear any significance and value to any sensible person," concluded the daily.

BBC Office Closed Over Treatment of Citizens*LD2002150790 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT*

20 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance today closed down the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) office in Tehran in reprisal for London's hostile attitudes towards Iranian citizens in that country. The British Government recently deported nine Iranians from Britain including the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (Iranian Radio and Television) Bureau in London.

In a statement released here Tuesday, the ministry said the decision had been adopted 'in retaliation for Britain's hostile treatment of Iranian citizens in Britain.'

The head of the B.B.C. in Tehran is an Iranian national.

Commentary on Al-Qadhdhafi's Visit to Egypt*LD1902153290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 19 Feb 90*

[Unattributed commentary] [Excerpts] Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has met and conferred with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Egypt. The meeting, which was held in Aswan, was the fourth between the two countries' leaders since last spring—in other words, since the start of the normalization of relations between the two countries at the Arab summit conference in the Moroccan town of Casablanca. [passage omitted]

Hitherto, neither of the two had visited each other's capitals, and despite the existence of warm relations, political relations have not as yet been restored. The Libyan Government, like many other Arab countries, severed its political ties with the Egyptian regime in the wake of the signing of the Camp David agreements; it even became a member of the resistance front, in which it led the opposition to Egypt's conciliatory policies. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, since almost two years ago when the Arab summit conference permitted the Arab countries to resume their relations with Cairo, the Libyan government had been among the few Arab countries which abstained from doing so. However, since the last Arab summit session, which meant Egypt's official return to that organization, Tripoli has expanded its relations with Cairo to a political level. Al-Qadhdhafi himself has reiterated that relations between the Libyans and the Egyptians surpasses any political relations. [passage omitted]

At the same time, it appears that, by expanding its relations with the Egyptian regime, the Libyan Government is trying to resolve a number of its domestic and regional problems, as well as alleviating the pressure exerted on it by the West, and specifically the United

States. The Egyptian regime, which is the only Arab government to sign a peace agreement with the Zionist regime, could, in view of its acceptance by the Arab world, play a mediatory role between the United States, Europe, and the Libyan Government.

Pakistani Army Chief of Staff Arrives 16 Feb

LD1602220190 Tehran Television Service in Persian

1600 GMT 16 Feb 90 [Text] General Aslam Beg, the Pakistani chief of Army Staff, arrived in Tehran today at the invitation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]. He was welcomed at Mehrabad airport by Mr. Reza'i, the commander of the IRGC. On arrival in Tehran, the Pakistani chief of Army Staff said: The people of Iran and Pakistan are linked by close religious, historical, and cultural ties. He expressed the hope that during his trip, the talks between the two countries' would prove successful and that the links of friendship and brotherhood between Iran and Pakistan would be strengthened.

Inspects War-Stricken Areas

NC1802071590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

0430 GMT 18 Feb 90 [Text] According to the Central News Unit, General Aslam Beg, Pakistani chief of the Army Staff, is leading a high-level military delegation visiting our country at the invitation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander. The delegation inspected the damage resulting from the imposed war in Khorramshahr, Abadan, and Pol-e Be'sat.

According to this report, Gen. Aslam Beg expressed his satisfaction with his visit. He lauded the morale of the Guards Corps' resistance forces.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1902111690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] General Mirza Aslam Beg, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, and his entourage were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Mohsen Reza'i the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, while conveying warm greetings from the president and prime minister of Pakistan and submitting a report on the meetings and talks held with Iranian officials, the chief of the joint staff of the Armed Forces of Pakistan said: The two Muslim nations of Iran and Pakistan can strengthen their Islamic traditions alongside each other by creating a strong base.

Expressing his gratitude for the greetings from the president and prime minister of Pakistan and his pleasure at the good diplomatic relations between the two countries, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The cooperation and friendship between Iran and Pakistan is of considerable importance in the region. We are prepared to expand our

cooperation in all fields. We are certain that there could be a great deal more cooperation than exists at present.

Finally, concerning Afghanistan, he said: No one can do anything without the consent of the people and mollahs of Afghanistan. For the people of Afghanistan are Muslims and wish for independence and the rule of Islam.

Confers With Naval Chiefs

LD1902210790 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT

19 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Aslam Beg Monday conferred with Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani on Tehran-Islamabad joint cooperation.

Earlier today, the Pakistani general met naval commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Hoseyn Ala'i.

Ala'i said provocative U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf has endangered regional security, and called for immediate withdrawal of American forces from the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. "Only littoral countries should maintain Persian Gulf security," he made it clear.

General Beg arrived here on February 16 at the head of a ranking military delegation.

Argentine Official Calls For Expanded Ties

LD1702222490 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT

17 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—A senior Argentine official, currently here at the head of a 32-man delegation, today called for expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Alfred Carim Yoma, Argentina's deputy foreign minister for international affairs, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mohmud Va'ez, said that Tehran and Buenos Aires shared common stance on most international issues.

Yoma's delegation includes Argentine industrialists, business entrepreneurs and political officials.

Both Yoma and Va'ez expressed desire to expand Tehran-Buenos Aires ties in various fields. After the talks, some committees were set up to explore ways of promoting mutual ties and forming a joint economic commission.

The Argentine official and his entourage arrived here Friday [16 February].

Meets President, Foreign Minister

LD1802204390 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT

18 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Alfredo Carim Yoma, Argentine deputy foreign minister for

Middle East affairs, said to President Hoj, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday that Buenos Aires is interested in broadening relations with Tehran in all areas. He said the people and government of Argentina hail Iran's struggle to remain independent of the power blocs since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution (1979).

Yoma who arrived here Saturday, said his visit to the shrine of the leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, and also his meeting with Hojat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani will for ever live in his memory. He also submitted a message to the Iranian president from his Argentine counterpart Carlos Saul Menem.

President Rafsanjani returned the commendation of the Argentine envoy, saying there were grounds on which Iran and Argentina can broaden thier relations.

In a separate meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Yoma presented a message from the Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo F. Cavallo. Velayati expressed hope that the Argentine envoy's visit would open a new chapter in relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with the Iranian deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance (Irshad) in charge of international relations, Hoj. Mohammad 'Ali Abtahi earlier later [as received] in the day, Yoma informed him about the interest of the Muslim community in Argentina in having cultural relations with the Islamic Republic. He said despite being a minority in Argentina, Muslims had successfully dissuaded the Argentine Government to exclude 'The Satanic Verses' from the list of books at a book fair in that country.

ROK Energy Minister Arrives for Economic Talks *LD1602101290 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT*

16 Feb 90 [Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—South [as received] Korean Minister of Energy and Resources Yi Pong-so arrived here Friday morning heading an economic-oil delegation to take part in the first Iran-Korea Joint Economic Commission.

In an interview upon arrival, Yi said that during his visit grounds for mutual cooperation will be discussed.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, who greeted Yi at the airport, said that Tehran-Seoul ties were at a good level at present and that Iran exports 100,000 barrels of oil to Korea daily.

Referring to Iran-Korea cooperation in Kangan gas refinery and the good Korean technology, the oil minister expressed hope that more grounds for cooperation would be sought at the joint commission.

Met by Oil Minister

NC1602091090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

0430 GMT 16 Feb 90 [Text] Mr. (Bong Soh-li), DPRK minister for energy and resources [name and title as heard], arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-level economic delegation. He was welcomed by Mr. Aqazadeh, our petroleum minister.

While speaking to our correspondent, the DPRK energy and resources minister said that the objective of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran is to convene a joint economic session between the two countries. He added: We wish to assume an active and extensive role in the reconstruction of Iran. For this purpose a number of economic officials from our country will participate in the session.

Mr. Aqazadeh, petroleum minister and head of the Iranian delegation to the joint economic commission between the two countries, described the level of economic ties between the two countries as commendable. He said:

[Begin recording] [Aqazadeh] The joint economic commission between Iran and the DPRK will convene for the first time. With the visit by the DPRK energy and resources minister, especially since he is accompanied by such a delegation including representatives of companies, we can foresee grounds for excellent cooperation between the two countries.

In the field of oil, there has been extensive cooperation between the two countries ever since the beginning of the revolution. We have been selling them at least 100,000 barrels per day, on average. The Korean companies are active in various projects in Iran, whether for the Petroleum Ministry, the Roads and Transportation Ministry, or other ministries. We are hopeful that in this joint session, which will take place with the participation of a large number of the esteemed ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and at the detailed talks scheduled to take place on the various projects, we will assess in what fields we will be able to have greater joint cooperation.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you please tell us what role the DPRK will play in post-war reconstruction?

[Aqazadeh] The DPRK is one of those countries which is known for intensive activity and superb technology and it has completed various assignments satisfactorily in Iran in the past. An example of this was the Kangan refinery, which recently became operational. Consequently, we see immense scope for cooperation with the DPRK. We believe that it is one of those countries which will be able to have extensive cooperation with Iran in the future.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

LD1902 Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

115690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GA

and nat MT 19 Feb 90 [Text] The South Korean energy Hashemi-Rafsanjani resources minister was received by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. At the meeting, which was also attended by Oil Minister Agazadeh and from the countries' ambassador, he conveyed greetings Islamic Republic of Iran president and expressed pleasure at the Republic of Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598. and are We welcome your economic development plans economy prepared to actively promote the expansion of the economic cooperation and participate in the plans for reconstruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani conveyed his gratitude and success that the high-ranking ROK delegation would be a great help. He expressed the hope that ties and cooperation between the two countries will increase in all areas.

NC20020 Signs Memo, Departs

093090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GA

reports MT 20 Feb 90 [Text] The Central News Unit minister that Mr. Yi Pong-so, the Republic of Korea's country minister of energy and resources, who came to our capital to lead the head of an economic delegation to participate in the Iranian-Korean joint committee, left Tehran understanding after signing an economic memorandum of Mr. Agazadeh. He was seen off by Petroleum Minister Agazadeh.

At the end of the South Korean energy and resources minister's visit, Petroleum Minister Mr. Agazadeh spoke to the press. He described this trip as positive, and reached an understanding. The industry and energy committees began to understandings during the two countries' joint committee session. He said that both sides of the energy agreement agreed to hold talks on completing the Imam Khomeini petrochemical complex, on constructing oil plants, on cooperating in the field of power generation and on completing the second phase of the South Korea project. He added that in the industrial field, the Iranian minister of energy and resources held talks with the Iranian minister of energy and resources on cooperation in the automobile industry, telecommunications, fishing, in non-oil direct flights between Tehran and Seoul, and was reached an understanding. On the whole, a good understanding was reached on these topics.

Petroleum Minister Mr. Agazadeh stated: In the memorandum of understanding between Iran and South Korea, the need to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 598 has also been emphasized.

***New Appointments to Various Offices Announced**

90010168 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian

31 Jan 90 p 4 [Text] Engineer Nuriyan, the deputy

aviation minister of roads and transport and head of the national aviation agency, issued separate decrees appointing

Engineer Seyyed Hasan Musavi as consultant in reconstruction affairs and Dr. Sabzehparvar as director of technical training of the national aviation training academy.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, the special prosecutor of the clerics, issued a decree appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Bahrami as special prosecutor of the clerics for the city of Qom.

Dr. 'Ali Akbar Salehi was appointed by the minister of culture and higher education and approved by the supreme council of the cultural revolution as president of the Sharif Industrial University, and his appointment has begun.

He is also president of the International Islamic University of Iran.

Dr. Mo'in issued a decree appointing Engineer Sahragard as director of the Zanjan higher education complex.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri made the following appointments in the Ministry of the Interior:

'Alireza Eslami as the deputy governor general for administrative affairs, finance, and planning of Fars Province; Eslam Mofatteh as governor of Shemiranat; Mostafa Nasr-Esfahani as the governor of Bandar-e 'Abbas; Parviz Shahpar as the governor of Torbat-e Jam; and Rostam Sadriyeh as the governor of Rasht.

In a separate decree, Engineer 'Ali Mohammad Nuriyan, the deputy minister of roads and transport and head of the national meteorological agency, appointed Engineer 'Ali Mohammad 'Ali Khani as the technical consultant, Bahram Sana'i as the head of the central office of administrative affairs, and Mohsen Mohseniyan as the head of the public relations office of this agency.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced that in a decree issued by Hoseyn Kamali, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Mohammad Taqi 'Ali Hasani was appointed as the cultural and parliamentary affairs deputy of this ministry, and his appointment has begun.

According to a report by the public relations office of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, in a decree by Hoseyn Kamali, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Mohammad 'Ali Mohammadi was appointed director general of labor and social affairs of Sistan va Baluchestan Province, and his appointment has begun.

The public relations office of the Ministry of Energy announced that in a decree issued by Engineer Zangeneh, the Minister of Energy 'Ali Razi Ardakani was appointed head of the regional water company of Khorasan, and his appointment has begun.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the minister of the interior, made the following appointments:

Khalil Reza'iyani as the deputy governor general for developmental affairs of Bushehr.
 Seyyed Jama'eddin Hedayatzadeh as the deputy governor general for developmental affairs of Zanjan.
 Seyyed Ahmad Hoseyni as the governor of Saveh.
 Esfandiar Mobtaker-Sarabi as the governor of Bijar.
 Rasul Yakhchaliyani as the governor of Sanqar.
 Reza Niknaddaf as the governor of Fereydan.

Mohammad Hasan Malek Madani was appointed by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, the minister of the interior, as the counsel to the minister for the affairs of the city of Tehran.

Malek-Madani, following the requests of the people of Esfahan and the agreement of the minister of the interior, will retain his post as counsel to the minister for the affairs of Tehran and will remain in his previous position as the mayor of Esfahan.

Report on 9 Jan Majles Session

PM3101151890 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
 10 Jan 90 p 5

[Report by the legal and parliamentary correspondent on the 9 January Majles session] [Text] The Majles met in open session yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. Following recitations from the holy Koran, Mr. Bayanak, the deputy from Ahvaz, gave the only pre-agenda speech. Then the Majles went into session.

According to the RESALAT parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was continued discussion on the Five-Year Plan for economic, social and cultural growth in the Islamic Republic, which was passed as a bill by the deputies.

The second item on the agenda was the question posed by Mr. Aqa'i from the minister of health and health education to which Dr. Fazel gave a reply. Here is the text of the speech by Mr. Bayanak and the general discussions:

The only speaker to give a pre-agenda speech at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Amin Bayanak, deputy from Ahvaz. He started his speech by sending his greetings to the spirit of God, Khomeyni, the destroyer of false gods, as well as to the leader, Ayatollah Khomeini. He then commented on the existing problems in Khuzestan province and said: Unfortunately the problems in the province of Khuzestan increase day by day due to the new management that has been imposed on the people.

He then addressed the president and the other Majles deputies and added: God only knows what is happening to our people, keeping in mind the diphtheria epidemic and the weakness of the health authorities in the province in dealing with the problem. There was a written warning from pediatricians and some heads of hospitals in this connection, of which I have a photocopy, which

was prepared one week before the disease broke out, but unfortunately nothing was done. Rather, in facing the problem that they themselves created, they appeared on a television program of the provincial network and indicated that diphtheria was [word illegible]. You also read the same thing in the press. Despite the fact that some people have lost their lives as a result of this disease, their families being in mourning, it was the officials who buried their heads in the snow. They had the nerve to ignore the people, as if they had no idea what was going on in the province.

At the same time they were treating the innocent people of Khuzestan in the hospitals in such a way that I am ashamed to talk about it. The spread of the disease killed some people very quickly and put their families in mourning. Today we see that the minister of health and health education is encouraging the province's health officials to take preventative measures against this disease.

Mr. Karrubi, respected deputies, respected minister of intelligence, respected prosecutor general, is there anyone who is going to ask: If there was diphtheria, why is it being officially denied in interviews? If there is no disease why is it that preventing it is being encouraged? If that is the case, why are they announcing that vaccinations throughout the country have been completed? If that were the case, the situation would not have occurred and the people would not be dead and buried now.

Most of those who have died have been below 15 and statistics show that in 1986 we only had eight cases of diphtheria in Khuzestan. In the Dasht-e Azadean region, this figure was zero. What about now? I am asking the respected minister of health and health education: Who is responsible for these people's deaths now? I ask him: Who is responsible for creating a bad atmosphere, tension and insults against officials?

Respected minister, do you have any idea what has been happening to the women of the province in the past few days? If you knew, you certainly would not encourage it.

Respected minister, respected minister of intelligence, Mr. Prosecutor General, dear ones, should the Ministry of Health not attend to such disasters which have been caused because of a lack of attention from officials, rather than spend its time purging Hezbollah and experts from the universities and the health circles? Should they not deal seriously with those responsible? Of course our good, Hezbollah people who are followers of their leader are sensitive to the fact that the minister has investigated the matter in such a way so as to confront those responsible in this manner.

The speaker continued to talk about the problems in the province of Khuzestan and said: Where should we start? To which of the people's pains should we pay attention? Shall we start with the governor general's office without a governor general? Or with the decrees of the deputies of officials in the province or the speeches of the brothers in the Majles—those same ones who accuse the most honest

forces of Islam of everything. Those same forces who had small and large responsibilities as mobilization squads during eight years of an unequal war, having to put up with the most severe conditions. Those same forces who did not hesitate for a moment under Saddam's missile attacks and continued aerial bombardment. [words illegible].

Do you think we will allow you to once again establish the conditions you have always achieved in the province? You, who think of the people's problems at all times, based upon which value are you remaining silent in the face of all the calamities faced by the governor general's office? Do you have any idea what has happened to the people in the past two years? Why do you not tell the people what has happened to the welfare files? Why do you not tell the people how the faithful forces of the revolution were first defamed and then investigated? Why do you not tell the people that there were frightful bands operating in the governor general's office who used to take the people—and there are a thousand other why's and what for's.

I was silent because I wanted to remain faithful to the revolution's values. These values were not destroyed then and we still had the imam. Let me not say the things that I have so far remained silent on. [words illegible].

My God, you know that I am speaking to please You and also to do my duty. You know well that I am here not by the vote of any foundation, or opportunity, or false support. I speak the truth and everything I have is because of You and Your good people.

The deputy from Ahvaz then asked the minister of interior to do something about the Khuzestan governor general's office as soon as possible.

Mr. Bayanak then commented on the recent message of the leader of the revolution and said: Aytollah Khomeini, the respected leader, we have heard your message with all our hearts and souls. As a small soldier I must tell you that although some of the deputies in the Majles may have differing views with regard to political or economic issues, they all, without exception, regard the legitimacy of their regime in terms of support for the leader. Before the revolution they moved alongside the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult in jail and in exile and after the revolution they were behind him in the battlefields of sacrifice and martyrdom.

The principle of the vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult is the very foundation of this regime. Damaging that is a blow against all those values achieved from the people's slogans. We Majles deputies will follow the orders of the leader like soldiers. In supporting the government, we will strengthen it, remove its problems and warn ministers in a timely manner. We will act in such a way that you and the people would want.

The first item on the agenda was continued discussion of the Five-Year Plan.

The Commission for Labor and Social Affairs suggested that this phrase be put in: "There should be an expansion of small water-driven power plants in deprived areas which are hard to get to in order to provide electricity for those regions." This suggestion was put to a vote and was approved.

This is the text of the bill for the Five-Year Plan:

The government has the duty to carry out the plan in order to realize the goals that have been set within it. The government has permission to use and put aside from sources projected in the program the maximum sum mentioned below in accordance with the lists written in Part Two of this bill. While obeying all laws and regulations, it can use this sum to achieve the goals mentioned. The credits from stable investments from public funds: 8,189 billion rials. Credits from stable investments from internal sources, companies and profit-making organizations linked to the government: 5,666.8 billion rials. Current credits from public funds: 20,776.5 billion rials.

This bill was then passed into law, with all its amendments, by a majority vote from the deputies.

Mr. Karrubi in his remarks wished all success for the popular and dear government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He asked the Almighty God that the president be able to carry out all the goals set out in the Five-Year Plan with all the effort that has been put into it.

He added: We all know how much hard work has gone into this bill. From the time of the government of Mr. Musavi, which was eager to serve the people, until later during the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, everyone at the Budget Commission and all other experts did their best and used all their time and effort to make this a comprehensive bill. If God is willing, it will be good and it will enjoy support from a majority of the people.

The speaker of the Majles then asked the executive officials and ministers to seriously pursue the Five-Year Plan in their own areas of responsibility. He added: We hope the programs, and especially the funds mentioned in the program, will increase. Just as it has been predicted, we hope we will not owe any money to the Central Bank by the end of the next Five-Year Plan. We especially hope that our currency earnings will be even higher.

In connection with the Majles, the budget commission really did work hard. The commission spent a large amount of time and made a huge effort. We sincerely want to thank this commission and also the whole Majles for showing such patience. The deputies listened to all the issues carefully and those who spoke in favor or against certain things, mentioned some useful aspects for which we are thankful.

Commenting on the increase in the defense budget for the Armed Forces, Mr. Karrubi said: An increase of 400

billion rials for the country's defense, was a very valuable thing for the country. The representative of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces was carrying a message for the Majles. He said that when he heard about the increase on the radio, the respected leader was completely happy about the news. He asked Mr. Firuzabadi to thank the Majles and the budget commission for this. He has written a letter to the Majles which I will give to the deputies. Of course in this regard the whole Majles and the plan and budget commission all made a great effort, for which we are grateful.

The speaker of the Majles continued: Nothing and no program will be carried out in the country without support from the people, friends of the revolution and support from the Majles.

The Majles announces to the head of the government, the respected president of the Islamic Republic, that we will help to implement and realize this plan. Our dear people will also help the country's executive officials. The basis of our progress is the people, therefore, with the help of the people, if God is willing, this Five-Year Plan will be executed well. We must also make ourselves ready for the next step and stage which is the Second Five-Year Plan.

Next on the agenda were questions posed by Mr. Gholam Hoseyn Aqa'i, the deputy from Hamedan, addressed to Dr. Fazel, the minister of health and health education:

Respected speaker of the Majles, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi: In accordance with Article 88 of the Constitution, please ask Dr. Fazel, the respected minister of health and health education to appear before the Majles, within the specified time, to answer the following questions. I would just like to mention that in accordance with guidelines from the late leader of the revolution, the imam—may God expedite his passage to paradise—this subject has been discussed with the minister during several meetings held at the Majles Health and Welfare Commission. None of the meetings produced any results.

The text of the questions:

A. Despite the fact that we have the technology to make the raw material for ampicillin, why is it that foreign technology is bought in this regard?

B. What is the background behind the purchase of foreign technology for this medicine from foreign countries and what were the reasons behind this?

With thanks, Dr. Gholam Hoseyn Aqa'i, Majles deputy representing the people of Hamedan.

Mr. Aqa'i gave some background information with regard to his questions and said: I think it necessary to say a few things in connection with these questions. First of all, there have been some wrongdoings in the area of medicines and drugs since the beginning of the revolution, as far as we know. This second issue is that these

wrongdoings have been approved by official channels such as the Central Bank and the customs' organization of the Islamic Republic. The important issue is that many of those responsible, if they have not fled the country, are in fact in high positions. Even more important than that is the fact that these wrongdoings are continuing in such a way that forces me to use what is at my disposal to confront and prevent these actions, since I have become aware of the situation.

For example, right now in the Jaber company, there are drugs being made which have been ordered off the shelves. I mentioned this in the previous Majles session. These drugs have cost a great deal of money. There are other drugs on sale in the pharmacies which should not be used, of which I shall give you an example.

But the most important thing is that I have asked these questions for several reasons. One is for the people to know that the Majles is aware of issues and that the deputies pursue such issues. It may be that issues are not discussed immediately, just as this drug situation has been our concern for about a year. [passage illegible]

It takes a long time to discuss all these issues and it is not always possible to give that much time, so they were discussed in ordinary meetings. Perhaps Mr. Fazel is not even aware of all these issues. In any case, in the process of discussing the two questions, he will become aware. It is hoped that by conveying these issues to the respected speaker of the Majles, the respected president and Dr. Fazel himself, if God is willing, there will be steps taken to solve the medicine problems in the country.

Dr. Aqa'i then explained his questions and said: The question that has been posed is in connection with the manufacture of a raw material which is one of the derivatives of ampicillin. Usually, to develop one substance, they make the substance in the laboratory with the chemical procedures that are available. If this is successful and if the sample made is accepted, they start making it on a small scale in a small workshop and this is known as the "pilot" stage. If this is also successful, they start to plan for a large factory and they make this factory in accordance with the information that they have found.

At this stage it is worth mentioning the name of Dr. Shalmashi, one of our most worthy experts, who has worked for many, many years and has been involved in the experimental use of this raw material. He has even carried out semi-industrial production. The industrial planning was started around 1984 and he managed to do this. But in 1984 Daru Pakhsh, which is a drug company linked to the Ministry of Health, completed a contract with a company to buy this technology.

Dr. Shalmashi was at the organization of scientific and industrial research. He wanted them to use the local medical knowledge that he had discovered so he extensively corresponded with the Ministry of Health, asking them to stop these deals and purchases. But time passed in that way up until 1987 when they concluded a

contract with another company. They declared the first contract null and void and they arranged another contract with another company. They did not pay any attention to the actions of the research organization.

Even Mr. Musavi himself ordered them to cancel the contract for the purchase but no one took any notice of this. In 1989, they even expanded the terms of the contract. This was because the research organization had concluded a contract with a company that was not affiliated with the Ministry of Health which was producing that same material and selling the technology. So they came and expanded the terms of the contract so that again there would be problems and competition for the internal contract signed with that local company. My question is this: First of all, what are the changes that have occurred in the contract and the reasons behind these changes since they switched companies? Second, why are they not buying technology from local sources which were approved by the laboratory manufacturing the product?

Minister of Health and Health Education Dr. Fazel started his reply to Mr. Aqa'i's question by saying: If there are these people—as it has been claimed—who have problems, who have done wrong, who are in some positions now, this country has offices that deal with this sort of issue. The person to deal with this is not Mr. Aqa'i. He should hand over such matters to those authorities in the country who are qualified to handle such things. So, one should not talk like this. If someone has something to say, he should send all the documents, exactly as they are, to the head of the judicial authority and he will give the proper orders. If there are people like that about, they should be investigated. Looking into these issues does not seem logical.

Dr. Fazel then added: There are some questions with regard to the years 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1987. The respected deputies are aware that after the revolution the multi-national companies were expelled. There was a generic plan in the country to produce drugs. They started to manufacture a great many of the drugs inside the country, some of which were brought from outside. [passage illegible]

Nearly 98 or 99 percent of the raw materials are purchased abroad. This means that we have not had the technology to manufacture medical raw materials to that extent. These are extremely complex, heavy technical matters which, especially in the case of drugs, play with the lives of human beings. It is very, very sensitive. Even now, except for a very few examples, we still do not make the raw materials in this country

It is obvious that we have to make an effort to provide this technology at home, because a large portion of the nation's hard currency reserves go toward importing raw materials for these drugs. In this regard, one of the figures that is very important is that of antibiotics. These drugs are heavily used and at the same time use a lot of the hard currency put aside for medicines. In order to

make these drugs at home, there were some plans to manufacture some basic material such as ampicillin and some other things and there was a plan to go through the stages to prepare the technology for this at home. If God is willing, we will be able to make these drugs at home so that drugs such as ampicillin and amoxycillin [as published] would not use up all this hard currency.

The Daru Pakhsh Company in 1982 and 1983 thought about putting the manufactures of this material on its agenda so that it could bring this material to the production line, to make it at home. This has a long history. There were problems in every way in every place in the world that they went to look for this technology to sign contracts.

They finally signed a contract with a Portuguese company to make four kinds of these drugs. At the time, there was talk of the technology to make ampicillin, which was one of these four drugs which is used in this country—there is a huge file on this which I have studied in full. There were indications in the file that it may not be necessary to purchase the technology for the drug's raw materials. Daru Pakhsh went into negotiations to procure this from the research organization with the help of local engineers and technicians.

The minister of health continued his speech by mentioning the problems encountered by this plan. He said: The capacity to produce a semi-industrial plan was far removed from the capacity to produce the project. According to claims made by those at the research organizations, this difference was some 12 tons a year whereas it was in fact about 280 tons. This meant that it concerned much of the other materials mentioned such as amoxycillin [as published] and so forth. According to their own admission, the research organization had only done some work on an experimental level in a laboratory which in no way meant that there was any other more progressive plan that would indicate production at an industrial level.

The research organization also announced that they were using penicillin in the production of a material which was being considered as a raw material for the manufacture of antibiotics. Also, that in connection with the other materials, they did not even have laboratory experience which is the primary and basic stage. In order to turn this material into basic antibiotics, they had had no experience or knowledge whatsoever of the manufacture of a gas called azotnitrogen [as published] which is a fundamental step. This was one of the basic and technical parts of this plan and was entirely chemical. With regard to the production of [word illegible] which is a so-called modern method, which is far more economic, there was no knowledge of this whatever. We need about 950 cubic meters of this every year. There was this plan which had not even been worked on in the research organization at a laboratory level.

There was not even a sign of a method of retrieving solvents at the research organization. About 500 tons of

solvents are used every year and this is a major economic step. If these are not recycled, it is not economical at all. This was not at all foreseen in their plan. Another very important point was that there was no provision to filter the water by their factories, which is extremely important. As far as the environment is concerned, a major project like one producing antibiotics can seriously threaten the environment.

Dr. Fazel continued: No technical or economic justification was ever given by the research organization to Daru Pakhsh. What the doctor said about the prime minister of the time ordering this seems not to have been the case.

The minister of health added: Producing this material locally is not economical. There is a difference of about \$10 million a year between this approach and the plan that Daru Pakhsh has purchased from outside. In addition to this, there was the question of trained manpower in that other plan and all the other issues that I have said during the time that the contract was signed. It has now gone through its primary stages and is continuing. [passage illegible]

Dr. Aqa'i gave some more details after the speech given by Minister of Health Dr. Fazel. He said: First of all the doctor said that it was not up to me ask these questions. If that is the case, then I do not know why there is the provision in the Majles whereby the deputies are allowed to ask questions. I would like to ask Mr. Karrubi to defend the rights of the Majles because this was mentioned by the doctor during some meetings by the commission where he asked why these things were being done. In any case it is the right of the Majles and one does not expect this kind of confrontation.

Now, with regard to the details that the doctor has given, it seems he has not been involved in the issue at all. First of all, the first deal that was signed was signed with a Spanish company and this contract that they have signed now with the Portuguese Sipan [name as published] company, was done in 1988. The things that he said are the same remarks which were made by his deputy in 1986 in a reply to the research organization. They had asked for information from the foreign company with which they had signed a contract. The foreign company at first did not give the information saying that they had to sign the contract first before handing over any information.

I would hereby like to tell Dr. Fazel that all the information that they gave you is correct and the research organization is still pursuing this program. At the end I will also read you a letter and I will give you the letter. We announce that all the things you need are being produced now. I will also tell you one of the lies that they told you.

What you said had the production capacity of 11 tons per year, Mr. Azarnush himself admits has a 60 tons per year capacity. Why do you say things like that over the microphones? The true capacity—in two shifts—is 300 tons per year. The estimate that you gave was 204 tons.

He added: They have carried out all the experiments. The quality of the medicine was also approved. Dr. Fazel should take note that the quality of the drug does matter.

I want to say something in passing which is something I have discovered in the year I have spent looking into this issue. The doctor should also pay attention to this fact. First of all our capacity to produce drugs in the country is at 50 percent. Statistics tell us that our factories are working at 50 percent capacity.

All this is happening while we are importing our drugs. Even if the factories announced that they were ready to make the drugs that we are now importing, what I want to say is that it is somewhat sweeter for health officials to import drugs. I do not know what the reason for this is. Perhaps we will be able to decide once I have given this small explanation. One example is the fact that the factory has announced that it can maximize its capacity by working two shifts and make new drugs as well—this is where I say that buying from outside is sweeter. Issues like this do exist. The other is the case of the cotton purchased from Pakistan. A load of cotton was purchased, all of which is rotten, and they brought it in without any controls and now it is just sitting in the warehouses. I would like to ask the Ministry of Finance to send an investigator there.

The deputy from Hamedan then commented on the currency irregularities by Daru Pakhsh and said: It was the purchase of contaminated and rotten medicines in 1989 that caused us to investigate two warehouses. There are lists which they can come and have a look at. There is a report, parts of which I shall quote, prepared by the national investigations office, which details the currency wrongdoings by Daru Pakhsh. This has been confirmed by the Central Bank. It has also been confirmed by the legal office of the Central Bank which is making a legal complaint.

The currency wrongdoings have been reported officially to judicial officials and the matter is now going to court. This has also been discussed in personal meetings with legal and health officials. It has been sent in writing to Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili. In 1985 it was discussed in a meeting with Messrs Marandi, Nik-nejad, Azarnush, Nil-Forushan, and Mr. Majedi as representative of the prime minister.

Keeping in mind the results of the findings by the Central Bank and the Customs Organization, there is a likelihood that there are other currency violations in other files. It is therefore necessary to investigate all the purchases of all the drug companies to see who has signed for what. Dr. Qasemi, then head of the Central Bank, the head of the Customs and the delegation that was in the Majles at the time—all these aspects show that foreign purchases are one area where officials really have to pay attention.

There was another case where they bought from a company and all the goods were rotten and the stuff is still there. There have been many cases where rotten

material has been purchased and these have all been written in files in 1984 and 1985 so that damages could be claimed, but so far nothing has been done about that. We have written many letters for them to report their progress in these cases but they have not done so. There are some problems with regard to foreign purchases which should be looked into.

He concluded his speech by saying: If Dr. Fazel is prepared to buy technology inside the country, there are some local experts who have in a letter announced their readiness to establish this factory with the necessary capacity as a cooperative. Here is the letter for Mr. Fazel to give his opinion.

Dr. Fazel said: I do not know to which of these remarks I should give my reply because Mr. Aqa'i spoke in such a confusing way. The answer is what I told the Majles. The other issues which the doctor has talked about—I would like to answer 100 times more than he. But the country has laws and this has to be pursued. More than anyone else, we would like to see people brought to justice if there is wrongdoing.

At the end Mr. Karrubi asked Dr. Aqa'i if he was happy with the minister's reply and Dr. Aqa'i replied that the issue should go to the Majles commission for questions.

The Majles will have its next open session next Tuesday.

Nepal

Top 3 Nepali Congress Leaders Under House Arrest

BK1702111590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1101 GMT

17 Feb 90 [Text] Kathmandu, Feb 17 (AFP)—The three top leaders of the banned Nepali Congress have been placed under house arrest, a senior Home Ministry source said Saturday [17 February].

Police and district authorities first searched the houses of senior Nepali Congress leader Ganesh Man Singh, the group's President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and General Secretary Girija Prasad Koirala then served them with government orders placing them under house arrest, the source said.

The authorities also took statements from the three men who have also been restricted from receiving telephone calls, a Nepali Congress source said.

The move came 24 hours before a mass opposition rally was due to begin and follows the arrest of hundreds of political activists throughout the country in the past few days.

General Secretary's Statement

BK1702133090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT
7 Feb 90

[By Kedar Man Singh] [Text] Kathmandu, Feb 17 (AFP)—The three most senior leaders of the outlawed

Nepali Congress were placed under house arrest Saturday [17 February], a top Home Ministry source said, on the eve of a rally for multi-party democracy in Nepal.

General Secretary Ganesh Man Singh, President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and senior party member Girija Prasad Koirala—the only surviving brother of the former elected prime minister, the late Bisweswore Prasad Koirala—were confined to their homes and forbidden to receive phone calls.

Police and local authorities searched their homes and took statements before making the arrests, but have not restricted the movements of their relatives, a Nepali Congress source said.

Professor Surya Bahadur Shakya, the former vice chancellor and human rights activist, was also reportedly placed under house arrest and prohibited from receiving calls.

Mr. Singh, the most senior Nepali Congress leader, issued a statement after his arrest that said the government would not be able to stop the pro-democracy movement set to begin Sunday. "This sort of arrest may not discourage the planned movement. Rather it might excite the general public," Mr. Singh said. The leader of a pro-democratic student group meanwhile said activists were prepared to "sacrifice" their lives to abolish the 30-year-old partyless or panchayat system and restore human rights.

The United Leftist Front of the seven factions of the banned communist parties, including Marxist and Leninist groups, and the pro-democratic Nepali Congress backed by university students have planned the campaign.

The government has confirmed the arrest of 559 rank and file politicians, including 200 students—a crack-down that analysts said appears aimed at foiling the movement. Nepali Congress sources maintained the number of arrested activists has surpassed 2,000 in the past two weeks.

The outlawed parties have planned the rally in different districts Sunday and have called for a general strike Monday which will affect public transport services.

The Nepal Bar Association has called for a boycott of the courts Tuesday, while on February 25th the banned parties have planned to observe "Black Day" when they will wear black arm bands and stage demonstrations to protest 30 years of repression.

In his statement, Mr. Singh said, "it was my dedication and desire to come out on the street carrying the banner of our Nepali Congress for the restoration of democracy on February 18, but it has been foiled by imprisoning me in my own residence.

"This kind of imprisonment had neither stopped the peoples' expectation for democracy in the past, nor would (it) be stopped tomorrow," Mr. Singh added.

"This
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This kind of repression would give birth to the people's resistance all over the country," he continued.

Meanwhile, the president of the Pro-Democratic Nepal Students Union, Balkrishna Khan, has described the arrest of the top leaders as the sheer "foolishness and madness of the panchayat government."

These arrests would not make any differences to our planned movement. Rather it has encouraged us to come to the forefront as planned by our leaders," Mr. Khan added.

We the Pro-Democratic Students are determined to throw out (the) partyless panchayat system and restore democracy in the country," he said. "As our supreme leader Ganesh Man Singh says, this will be our last movement against partyless polity. We will make it (a) success at any cost, even if we have to sacrifice our lives," Mr. Khan added.

BK1 Home Ministry on Arrests

083K1702085890 Delhi Domestic Service in English

830 GMT 17 Feb 90 [Text] The Nepalese Government has accepted that 339 persons have been taken into custody in connection with the movement for democracy in Nepal. The Government, however, denied press reports that 1,500 persons have been arrested. According to the Home Ministry, legal action has been taken against these persons for unconstitutional activities. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that while the government has warned the people of stern action for taking part in the movement, the Nepalese Congress and the United Left Front have announced their plans to hold demonstrations and rallies tomorrow.

The leader of the banned Nepalese Congress, Mr Ganesh Man Singh, has been placed under house arrest in Kathmandu.

Kir

BK1 King Reaffirms Continuation of Partyless System

083K1802092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English

830 GMT 18 Feb 90 [Text] King Birendra has made it clear that the partyless panchayat system will continue in the country. In his message to the nation on the occasion of the National Democracy Day today, the king said the panchayat system enjoys the popular mandate and it is responsive to the needs of the people. Our Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports that in his address King Birendra did not announce any concession to Uncommodate the banned Nepalese Congress and the United Left Front who have launched a movement for the restoration of full democracy from today.

The leader of the Nepalese Congress, Mr Ganesh Man Singh, has stated that nothing short of the multiparty system will meet the aspirations of the people. Our correspondent adds that demonstrations, rallies, and public meetings are being organized today throughout

the country by the pro-panchayat elements and the supporters of the prodemocracy movement.

Reports of arrest in connection with the movement continue to come in from various parts of the Himalayan Kingdom. Police lathi [baton] charged time and again in the main shopping areas in Kathmandu to disperse agitating mobs. Workers belonging to Nepalese Congress and the United Left Front demonstrated at different places waving party flags, raising slogans in favor of multiparty system and against the government and distributed handbills and leaflets.

Pro-Democracy Demonstrators Clash With Police

BK1802111290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 18 Feb 90

[By Kedar Man Singh] [Text] Kathmandu, Feb 18 (AFP)—Pro-democracy demonstrators clashed with police in the streets of this city Sunday [18 February] even as King Birendra told his nation that Nepal's partyless system gave them the option for change.

Following the monarch's morning call some 15,000 people took part in a protest march through the streets of Kathmandu to demand a multi-party democratic system, witnesses said, adding that hundreds of riot police were deployed at key intersections along the route.

Meanwhile, in a pre-dawn sweep Sunday police arrested some 500 Tribhuvan University students at the nearby hamlet of Kiritpur, an opposition source said, though this could not be confirmed officially.

Witnesses reported clashes between police and pro-democracy demonstrators at Indrachowk and other areas in Kathmandu and said students and party activists, including communist leader Mana Mohan Adhikari, had been arrested.

Riot police baton charged the demonstrators outside the U.S. Government library here and were seen elsewhere firing tear gas to disperse demonstrators, they said. Clashes between police and pro-democracy demonstrators were also reported from the picturesque Pokhara Valley, 225 kilometres (140 miles) west of here, where the king has been staying. At least 150 people had been arrested in Pokhara, witnesses reported. Clashes were also reported from Chitwan and Hetaunda, south of here.

Political observers said King Birendra's message was effectively a response to calls by the banned opposition for a dissolution of the partyless "democracy" that was installed by his father in 1960 after the now banned Nepali Congress Party tried to establish a true parliamentary democracy here.

The Nepali Congress and seven opposition parties had called for the mass rally Sunday to protest against the system that has proscribed them, and particularly at Nepal's local assembly system.

King Birendra, in his message broadcast nationwide on radio and television, referred to the referendum in May 1980 that gave the people of Nepal the choice of a multi-party system or retention of the partyless polity with reforms.

"The national referendum which endorsed this (partyless) polity testified to the fact that not only did it enjoy the popular mandate but is also responsive to the need of the country," he said.

"The Nepalese people through participation in democratic exercises at various levels of their panchayats (local councils leading to Parliament at the national level) are today aware of the values and norms of democracy which they are able to sustain", the king said.

King Birendra also referred to proclamation in 1951 of a constitutional monarchy. "The change in 1951 initiated the process of modernisation in the country with a democratic framework in keeping with times," he said. "It was with a view to evolving a democratic polity in accordance with the wishes of the people and also a commitment to protect the national interests values and norms that Nepal adopted the partyless democratic panchayat polity in 1960," he added.

Political observers said the king's message had disappointed the Nepalese elite who had expected important political reforms to be announced.

As the king spoke, some 15,000 people were taking part in a demonstration here to demand changes in the country's political system. A counter march, led by Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, had arrived at the army pavilion in the centre of Kathmandu, witnesses said. The anti-panchayat demonstrators were seen carrying the four-starred flag of the Nepali Congress, which was banned in 1960.

Opposition supporters clashed with police near the statue of former Premier Juddha Shumshere in the city centre area of Indrachowk, a witness said, adding that the demonstrators had shouted slogans such as "Long live democracy; down with the panchayat system—we will bring democracy at any cost."

Police Fire on 'Agitating' Mob

BK1902080290 Delhi Domestic Service in English

0730 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] In Nepal, reports from Bhaktapur speak of police firing on an agitating mob today. Two persons are reported killed and several injured.

The banned Nepali Congress and United Left Front have given a call for complete bundh [strike] today in support of their demand for restoration of complete democracy in the country. There are also reports of a complete bundh from Pokhara. In the capital city, Kathmandu, markets are almost closed and most of the transports are off the roads. The situation in Chitwan is reported to be tense.

Minister on 'Alarming' Situation

BK1902163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English

1530 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] In Nepal the situation at Bhaktapur turned violent today when police resorted to firing to disperse an agitating mob. According to the banned Nepalese Congress sources, five persons were killed and several injured in the police action. According to official sources, three persons died and 25 injured in the incident. The injured have been admitted to hospital. The condition of one of them is critical.

Reports from several parts of Nepal speak of complete bundh [strike] observed today in response to a call by the Nepalese Congress and the United Left Front in support of their demand for multiparty system in the Himalayan Kingdom. All-India Radio Kathmandu correspondent Harish Sehgon reports that the capital city wore a deserted look today with markets closed and most of the transport gone off the road. In Kirtipur, a bus was set on fire by students. According to Nepalese Congress sources, the students also attempted to set fire to Kirtipur police station. They said police have been posted in large numbers in the university campus area.

Briefing newsmen in Kathmandu this evening, the Nepalese communications minister, Mr. Kamal Thapa, described the situation in the country as alarming. He alleged that the movement for multiparty political system has passed into the hands of extremists and said the government is determined to crush it. He said there is no question of negotiations with the extremists.

Giving the official version of yesterday's incident, Mr. Thapa claimed that only three persons were killed, and not 10 as reported by some foreign media. He said only 175 persons were arrested. Replying to a question, he said four members of the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament] have been arrested. Mr. Thapa appealed to newsmen to be factual in reporting the movement. He sought the cooperation of the press in normalizing the situation in Nepal.

The Nepalese Congress Party says the movement for democracy in the Kingdom will not be suppressed even if the government uses force to crush it. The general secretary of the banned party, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, said in a statement that the panchayat [partyless] system in Nepal will not last and will have to go. A copy of the statement was release in New Delhi. Mr. Koirala, who is under house arrest, said the movement will continue till multiparty system is introduced in Nepal.

Suppression of 'Extremist Forces'

BK2002004890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2042 GMT 20 Feb 90

[By Kedar Man Singh] [Text] Kathmandu, Feb 19 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government vowed Monday [19 February] to "suppress the extremist forces" as police

gunfire reportedly killed five people during the second day of pro-democracy demonstrations in this Himalayan Kingdom.

Opposition party sources said the five were killed and 29 others wounded during two clashes between riot police and demonstrators in Bhaktapur, 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Kathmandu.

Nepalese Minister of State for Communication Kamal Thapa confirmed three of the deaths and six injuries at Bhaktapur. That brought the official toll to seven dead, including one policeman, and 14 injured in two days of clashes between security forces and pro-democracy demonstrators in several Nepalese cities.

An additional 175 people have been arrested, Mr. Thapa said, rejecting opposition reports of more than 2,000 arrests. "The political movement had pledged to hold (demonstrations) peacefully and non-violently but it turned violent," he told a press conference here. "The leadership has been shifted to the hands of extremists who are bent upon creating disturbance in the country."

The minister rejected the demands of the outlawed opposition parties for a multi-party political system in Nepal. "There is no question of compromising with the political opposition and the extremists and the government is determined to suppress the extremist forces," he said.

Monday's deaths came as 5,000 people opposed to Nepal's partyless panchayat system staged a demonstration in Bhaktapur after police moved in against shopkeepers observing a strike, witnesses said.

Mr. Thapa said police had opened fire as a last resort. "First we tried to disperse the mobs by using tear gas, secondly by firing blank shots in the air and finally the police firing for their defence," he said.

The party sources identified those killed in the morning clash at Bhaktapur as Hari Krishna Bhoju, Krishna Ram Duwal, Surendra Man Balla and Kanchha Duwal, supporters of either leftist or pro-democracy factions. In the afternoon, Nirmal Kumar Shakya was killed, they said.

The violence in Bhaktapur came amid a general strike called by pro-democracy groups. All shops, schools and colleges, including Tribhuvan University and other affiliated campuses, were closed in three townships in Kathmandu Valley—Bhaktapur, Kathmandu and Lalitpur—with a total population of 10 million.

Students representing Nepal's banned opposition parties were seen picketing in the outskirts of Kathmandu Township to stop the movement of public buses. Taxis remained off the roads, and some buses were stoned outside Kathmandu when they tried pick up passengers. Mr. Thapa said extremists set one bus on fire on Tribhuvan University campus.

He described the situation in Bhaktapur and other towns where clashes have occurred as tense but under the government's full control.

Riot police were seen posted at important intersections and outside government buildings in Kathmandu.

The pro-democratic Nepal Students' Union declared Monday's general strike a total success and demanded the release of jailed activists. "Nationwide arrests and mass suppression by the panchayat government during the present peaceful non-violent mass movement has exhibited the panchayat's anti-people character," the union said in a statement.

The Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON) meanwhile condemned the use of the force against demonstrators, saying the demonstrations were proceeding in a peaceful manner when security forces intervened. "It is the responsibility of the government to show the greatest tolerance and restraint," it said.

HURON urged the Nepalese Government to respond positively to the "manifest aspirations" of the people for greater democratic rights and freedom. "It is also clear that lack of democratic institutions is responsible for growing corruption, crime and general erosion of moral fibre of the Nepalese society," the group said.

The HURON statement called on human rights organizations worldwide to support the democracy movement in Nepal and "help establish a political regime which values human rights and human lives."

Police Firing in Janakpur

BK2002134490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT

20 Feb 90 [Text] Kathmandu, Feb 20 (AFP)—Three people were killed and seven were seriously injured Tuesday [20 February] when police opened fire to disperse political agitators attacking a police station in southeastern Janakpur, official sources said.

Three agitators were killed in the police firing outside a local police station in the Janakpur village of Jadukuwa, 190 kilometers from here, the sources said. Three police were among the injured in the incident, they said.

Unofficial sources said at least six were killed and more than 10 civilians and police were injured.

Lawyers Arrested; Situation 'Tense'

BK2002162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English

1530 GMT 20 Feb 90 [Text] Three persons were killed today when police resorted to firing at Jadukuwa in (Dhanisha) District of Nepal to control agitating demonstrators who attacked the local police station. Seven persons were injured including three policemen. The mob was demonstrating in favor of the movement for multiparty system, the call for which was given by the banned Nepali Congress and the United Left Front. One person injured yesterday died in Bhaktapur hospital today. In Kirtipur, several arrests were made.

The Nepal Bar Association said that about 2,000 of its members stayed away from courts today to express their

solidarity with the movement. According to a spokesman of the association, 38 lawyers have been arrested in this connection. Meanwhile, today, the situation in most parts of the country was reported to be tense, particularly in Bhaktapur and Chitwan.

Pakistan

New Zealand Foreign Minister Begins Visit

BK1902155490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu

1500 GMT 19 Feb 90 [Text] Pakistan and New Zealand will sign agreements to promote trade and cooperation in agricultural technology in Islamabad tomorrow. This was stated by the New Zealand minister of external relations and trade, Mr. Mike Moore, on his arrival in Karachi this afternoon. He told newsmen the agreements will prove useful in expanding economic ties between the two countries. The New Zealand minister also exchanged views with Pakistani businessmen and members of the Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry on economic ties. Earlier, the New Zealand minister called on Sind Governor Mr. Fakruddin J. Ibrahim and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Aid to Afghans To Continue

BK2002155590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu

1500 GMT 20 Feb 90 [Text] Mike Moore, New Zealand's minister of external relations and trade, has said his country wants the Kashmir issue to be resolved amicably between Pakistan and India. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said: We support a peaceful settlement.

Answering a question, Mike Moore said New Zealand will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees.

Trade Agreement Signed

BK2102034190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu

0200 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Text] Pakistan and New Zealand have signed a trade agreement that will consolidate bilateral trade exchanges and include new commodities in the list of general trade. The agreement was signed in Islamabad yesterday by Mike Moore, New Zealand minister for external relations and trade, and Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, federal minister for commerce. Earlier, at their formal talks, both ministers reviewed the possibility of increasing bilateral trade to benefit both countries.

Accompanied by his delegation, the New Zealand minister for external relations also met with Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday. The senior minister lauded New Zealand's support for Pakistan on the Afghan issue and Pakistan's reentry into the Commonwealth. She expressed the hope that entrepreneurs in Pakistan and New Zealand can set up joint ventures. The New Zealand minister endorsed the view

that entrepreneurs of both countries will utilize the sectors identified to their mutual benefit.

French President Mitterrand Continues Visit

Mitterrand, Bhutto Address Assembly

BK2002165690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu

1500 GMT 20 Feb 90 [Text] The president of France has supported the right of the people in Asia to determine equitable conditions [musawianaa halat ke taiyun ke liye] and called for respecting the promises that have been made to allow them to decide their own destiny. Addressing the National Assembly in Islamabad this afternoon, the French president expressed his country's concern and apprehensions about the people who are facing difficulties and hardships in Pakistan's neighborhood and said the rights of these people need to be recognized. He paid tribute to the Pakistani nation and its democratic evolution. He also referred to the freedom struggle waged under the leadership of the great leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in which the people had to pay a heavy price. He also recalled his country's support for this struggle and said that France's friendly ties with Pakistan were established at a difficult time.

The French president reassured that his country will give every possible support to efforts for modernization and development of Pakistan and said the friendship between two countries is a valuable treasure that needs to be cherished.

The French president appreciated Pakistan's courage and generosity in playing host to millions of Afghan refugees and said France is grateful to Pakistan for providing shelter to those who fled their homes owing to threats to their lives and property.

President Mitterrand underscored the importance of democracy and said the struggle for and the promotion of democracy demand resoluteness, steadfastness, and vigilance. He said his country wants to help its friends so that they can provide basic facilities, like food and education, to their people.

Referring to the debt problem faced by the Third World countries, the French president expressed unflinching support for the cause of the Third World. He said the impact of the changes in Eastern Europe will not in any way make the West forget its friends in the Third World. President Mitterrand emphatically stated that nothing can stop France from providing assistance to Third World. It is in the interest of developed countries to improve their trade conditions for the benefit of the [words indistinct] backward people, he added.

The French president called for solving the environment and drug problems at the international level and noted the common approach of Pakistan and France on these issues.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed profound gratitude to President Mitterrand for his inspiring address

and his expression of full support for the people of Pakistan. She paid tribute to his leadership, ideas, and concepts, which are transforming France into a major power and are motivating and inspiring the people of France and freedom-loving people the world over. Benazir Bhutto said this house and the people of Pakistan enthusiastically welcome President Mitterrand and France for upholding the rule of law and independence, and for supporting the Third World cause.

Referring to the restoration of democracy in Pakistan, the prime minister said this house has come into existence after a decade-long struggle. She added: Our struggle has achieved a lot because of our adherence to basic democratic values, freedom, and the spirit of brotherhood.

The prime minister supported the creation of common international economic systems and reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support for freedom and justice throughout the world. In this connection, she made specific mention of the oppressed people of Kashmir, Afghanistan, Palestine, and Namibia.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the leader of the opposition, joined the government in welcoming the French president to Pakistan and thanked him for his address to the house. He expressed the hope that the current visit of French president will further strengthen friendly ties between two countries. Earlier, Speaker Malik Meraj Khalid paid rich tribute to President Mitterrand's foresightedness, wisdom, and humanitarian policies and his constant friendship with Pakistan.

The National Assembly unanimously adopted a vote of thanks for President Mitterrand's address. The house then adjourned sine die.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent says that President Mitterrand was enthusiastically welcomed by members when he, accompanied by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, entered the house. Members repeatedly applauded his address by thumping their desks. All galleries of the house were completely filled with guests, diplomatic representatives, and media correspondents.

Wide-Ranging Issues Discussed

BK2102031290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu

0100 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Text] President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto met in Islamabad yesterday without aides. Later, both the leaders were assisted at a meeting by their foreign ministers and senior officials. This meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, reflecting a new spirit of understanding and friendship which has emerged with the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. The two leaders exchanged views on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Views were also exchanged on Pakistan's energy problems and the peaceful use of atomic energy in electricity generation to solve those problems.

Accompanied by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the French president will pay a brief visit to Lahore, where he will visit places of historic importance.

Letter Urges Mitterrand To Support Kashmiris

BK2002131690 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 20 Feb 90 p 1

[Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan's letter to French

President Francois Mitterrand; date not given] [Text] Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Kashmir, the Government of Azad (free) Kashmir and myself, I wish to extend our profound gratitude to Your Excellency for your first ever visit to Pakistan. What an irony that while you are here, at our doorsteps, we the twelve million people of Kashmir can neither invite you nor can you on your own undertake a visit to Azad Kashmir. This Berlin Wall, the cease-fire line, not only keeps the Kashmiris divided but it debars the world leaders from recognising the right of self-determination. We have, all these years, sought indulgence of world community in general, and world leaders, in particular, to help avoid uncalled-for bloodshed and resolve the issue peacefully in accordance with the UN Resolutions. Now that bloodshed has been imposed upon the Kashmiris, we request the world leaders in the name of fair-play, justice and world order to shun the fear of Indian military might and live up to the challenge of historical realities and factual requirements. We hope that, today, it is not the military might to be reckoned so much as is morality, justice and regard for human rights. But in case of India, how long will world conscience lie in wait to witness death, torture and destruction of life, property and honour. A world power like France can surely play a prominent role. There is nothing to stop it from supporting the just and righteous causes anywhere in the world, Kashmir also amongst them.

A pertinent word about the Indian designs and strategy. It suits Indian strategy and convenience to beguile and blackmail the world opinion by naming the movement in Kashmir as that of cessation, fundamentalist, terrorist and of Pakistani interference. In fact, these words have been deliberately coined as an easy ploy only to blackmail the whole world, particularly the West. There is absolutely no truth in any one of them. We the Kashmiris ask of Your Excellency to at least lend the issue a few moments of your precious time only to view it in its correct perspective. By any standard, it is not at all a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan as painted by India. It is nothing else but a clear-cut question of right of self-determination which has been already enjoyed by hundreds of millions on the Indo-Pak Sub-continent, with only one exception—Kashmir. The issue has also been duly recognised by the UN. The UN still remains charged with the responsibility of implementing the resolutions of the UN and Security Council for holding a free, fair and impartial plebiscite in Kashmir under UN auspices. Even the fateful and so much talked about "Simla Accord" does not in any way deny that

right to the Kashmiris. The worst that this accord does is to involve Pakistan in the issue as party, whereas the real issue has nothing to do with the Pakistani or Indian position. No matter what these two countries do amongst themselves, there is nothing to deter the twelve million Kashmiris from securing right of self-determination. The other aspect to which I wish to draw Your Excellency's attention is the apprehension of greater involvement. However India might try to keep it limited to Kashmir and Pakistan, the movement is bound to effect at least the whole region if not more. It has rather the potential to lead towards even greater involvement.

Now that a new world order based on equality and freedom is in the offing, it would be simply tragic for the world, with alive conscience, to ignore the twelve million people of Kashmir and keep them under subjugation merely because it suits the convenience of a military power. If Kashmiris' struggle is not just and consistent with the universally acknowledged right of self-determination, let the world leaders spell it out without reservation. If it is otherwise, then what is there to deter these leaders from pronouncing their just verdict? We do not demand of the world to fight our battle. We only want them to do justice to all including Kashmiris, regardless of what the Indian propaganda machine might be projecting. Any country that is interested in world peace and is charged with that responsibility must not be oblivious of the fact that as long as there remains a smallest group of people demanding right to self-determination, there would be no lasting peace in that part of the world. For that matter, why should anyone expect peace in this region where twelve million people are being denied all human rights. It is in this context that the people of Kashmir, Pakistan, the region and freedom-loving people elsewhere will be eagerly looking forward to your visit to Pakistan.

At the same time, I will request Your Excellency to cast only a cursory glance at the national and international commitments made by India in this respect. It will also be of immense value and great interest both personally and as historical record to read what the great Indian leader, late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, has said in unequivocal terms. It would put to shame anyone how blatantly these unqualified pledges have been repudiated by the same person. It is a great lesson of history and for men of history. Greatness, magnanimity and sanctity of human world has yet to find a parallel in desecration and violation. The recent expulsion of all journalists without exception from the wailing vale, Kashmir, amply exposes the fraudulent Indian claim to democracy and freedom. The question is how long will this bully carry on with impunity its criminal and barbarous role. In face of these irrefutable realities, the poor UN has become a mockery. What the present Secretary General has recently said speaks volumes. His statement is suggestive of nothing but abject surrender to Indian military might and a declaration tantamount to surrendering the confidence of the world forum reposed in the Secretary

General himself. This, in a nutshell, is the perilous situation to which I wish to draw Your Excellency's attention, while you are here. It would be amply rewarding for us to feel that this issue of twelve million Kashmiris' right of self-determination has merited your attention and seen in its correct perspective. I am sure we are not demanding too much.

Wish you a happy stay and safe return. Yours,
[Signed] Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, President's House, Muzaffarabad

PRC Defense Minister Continues 9-Day Visit

Meets With Prime Minister

BK2102015490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu

0100 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Text] Accompanied by the members of his delegation, Chinese Defense Minister General Qin Jiwei called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday. Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister said China is a friend of Pakistan and that its helpfulness has stood the test of time.

The Chinese defense minister expressed the hope that the cooperation between the two countries will further expand in various sectors.

Meets Military, Naval Officers

BK2102033490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu

0200 GMT 21 Feb 90 [Text] Accompanied by the members of his delegation, Chinese Defense Minister General Qin Jiwei called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday. Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister said China is a friend of Pakistan and that its helpfulness has stood the test of time.

The Chinese defense minister expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries will further expand in various sectors.

The Chinese minister also met with Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey in Islamabad. He also met the naval chief, Admiral Yasturl Haq Malik, and exchanged views on the naval environment in the region.

Former Iranian Minister Dies in 'Commando Action'

BK1902120690 Lahore THE NATION in English

17 Feb 90 p 10 [Text] Quetta—Haji Baloch Khan, a former Iranian Minister was assassinated on Thursday [15 February] in a commando action carried out by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Taftan, a town on Pak-Iran border.

According to reports reaching here on Friday Haji Baloch Khan, a minister in the Cabinet of late Shah of Iran, migrated after Iranian Revolution to Pakistan and was running a general store in Taftan.

He also reportedly formed a resistance group against Iranian government.

On Thursday morning when Mr. Baloch Khan was sitting in shop, five members of Iranian Pasdaran (revolutionary guards) crossed the border in a pick-up and started indiscriminate firing with automatic weapons which resulted in his death.

After their successful action, the commandos returned to their territory without any resistance on the part of Pakistani militia, which has four check posts on the point, from where the intruders penetrated.

Smuggler Arrested With Large Amount of Narcotics

BK1302101390 Lahore THE NATION in English

13 Feb 90 p 8 [Text] Sheikhpura—The Mangtanwala Police following a raid at Chak No. 1, Mangtanwala arrested accused Haider Zaman and seized 28 kilograms of heroin, 215 kilograms of opium and 2,980 kilograms of charas from his possession.

It is reported that the accused was smuggling the narcotic to Sharqpur from Mansehra on a Suzuki Pick Up No. 2373/LHK, Government of Punjab, which was fake. Its real registration number was 403/KH.

The police on information raided and arrested the accused from Chak No. 1, Mangtanwala when he was transferring the narcotics to another vehicle.

Five other accused managed to escape.

Heroin Haul Released on Officials' Orders

BK1602110190 Lahore THE NATION in English

16 Feb 90 p 12 [Text] Mianwali—More than 500 kg of contraband heroin seized by police on Wednesday [14 February] night at Paikhel check post near Mianwali from an oil tanker, was released this morning on the orders of some high officials. According to details, on Wednesday night at Paikhel check post constables Najee-bullah Khan No. 599, Alam Khan No. 633 and Abdul Qadoos havaladar [sergeant] No. 855 stopped oil tanker bearing No. GLTA-1250 with the monogram of PBS [Pakistan Burma Shell] coming from the tribal area, searched and found huge quantity of heroin.

The driver introduced himself as Customs Inspector. The police party took the tanker to Police Station, Mochh, for registration of a case but to their utter dismay early in the Thursday morning, on the instructions of some high-ups, the oil tanker was released along with the contraband narcotics and driver without registering a case. The heroin was being smuggled to other parts of the country. Circles of Mianwali have expressed surprise and indignation at the incident as the present government is making all-out efforts to rid the society of this menace.